

Master Gardeners of Rutherford County Board Meeting

August 2, 2016

Officers Present: President Richard Lee, Vice President, Autumn Shultz, Secretary, Lee Etta Cadotte and VP Outreach Jenny Byrum.

Other Recognized Members: Floyd Adams, Linda Stevens, Keith Miller & Janie Becker (Extension Agent).

The regular monthly meeting of RCMG Board was called to order at 6:15 p.m. in the Community Center Building at Lane Agri Park in Murfreesboro, TN. Due to lack of a quorum, the July Board meeting was cancelled. Motion by Autumn and seconded to approve the June Board minutes. The Financial report for second quarter 2016 was reviewed. Cash on hand at the end of the month was \$13,249.65. Our Association spent \$269.85 for table decorations used at the Central Region meeting held on 6/30/16 in Nashville. We will be reimbursed for this expenditure. The approved purchase of a CD is still being planned.

Keith Miller addressed the Board & provided a snap shot of the first (3) months of sales activity for the Farmers Market. Total MG sales were \$164.56 (May), \$310.79 (June) & \$406.82 (July), all together = \$902.17. Our initial investment in supplies was \$215.01, giving a profit of almost \$700.00. Keith also presented a spreadsheet inventory. As he explained, products used at MG meetings (drinks, cups, paper products etc.) are taken from the Farmers Market inventory. Keith recommends that our Association track how much product is used for meeting & then credit that amount back to the Farmers Market. Then at year-end, both accounts could be reconciled.

Also, a suggestion was given by Keith that our storage cabinets in the building be locked & labeled on the outside "Master Gardener Use Only." The Board also determined that a list, of which items are kept in a cabinet, would be helpful & could be posted on the inside of cabinet doors. A question was raised about the MGRC account with Sam's Club. Keith has the only card; however, he can add an additional name with no extra cost. Motion by Lee Etta and seconded to authorize Keith Miller to get an additional Sam's Club card and Board member Jenny Byrum will be designated as the person to be its keeper. Keith added that the account for RCMG with GFS has been closed. Jenny will get with Keith to secure the card. She also volunteered to pick up batteries for our AV equipment & headsets prior to the August Association meeting. It was mentioned that Ken Roberge should be asked to look into purchase of a new headset for our meetings.

Janie gave her report:

- 1) The Farmers Market is doing very well as per the information from Keith. Total sales for these (3) months is \$100,000 plus.
- 2) Peaches have been harvested & product was frozen to make jam which will be given to Family Community Educators. Grapes should be ready by mid-August. We have access to a juicer for the grapes this year. Tony Johnston volunteered to bring his juicer to the field.
- 3) All Demo Garden leader positions need job descriptions – Autumn volunteered to do this.
- 4) As per previous discussion, RCMG received \$755 from Verizon Wireless as a match for hours volunteered to RCMG by one of their employees. An announcement about this program should be presented at our Association meeting. In addition, we need to inquire to see if other employers sponsor similar programs. Remember to ask our member whose employer provided the match, if she wants to remain anonymous?
- 5) Update on the Signs for our Demo Garden – We will need (29) 12" holes for 12" x 12" footers with bolts for the signs. An auger is needed & several volunteers to get this done. Janie is wondering whether anyone would be willing to undertake this as an Eagle Scout project?
- 6) The 2017 Intern Class will be held at night. Janie plans to schedule speakers in September. She feels her need for support will be much greater this year due to Linda Lindquist's retirement & Rebecca Cowan's health issues.

Our growth team did a tremendous job last year & we look forward to their support again. Members of the Growth Team were: Rebecca Cowan (chair), Debra Tant, Betty Boynton, Jim Phillipson, Nancy Nelson, Brenda Cross & Reba Hinkle.

Linda Stevens (Nominating Committee for Officers) presented the list of individuals who have agreed to be nominated for 2017 Officers with RCMG. She has filled these positions except for Vice President & Vice President of Education. In addition, she sent an e-mail to all members requesting nominations of volunteers for these duties.

Our meeting continued with a discussion about the Association's Sunshine Committee. We determined that this should be renamed to the Sunshine/ Welcoming Committee to emphasize a change in its purpose. The Board strongly feels the need for comradery & being personal towards our members both at meetings & in general. We will need to develop a description of our vision for the Committee (what is desired). Some of the ideas discussed included "Team" announcements of Birthdays, Kudos for personal news, prayer concerns, illness, deaths, welcoming members at meetings & following up with absentee members who we don't want to forget about. The consensus was that a "contact" person is needed who is outgoing & likes people; however, this is not merely a job for one person. Linda Lindquist has been overseeing the newsletter but, we are not sure if she will continue doing so or not. This item will be addressed again next month. **Janie added that it is very important to get people to enjoy the job they are doing as we are all volunteers at RCMG. Per Janie everyone should find a good fit & if not, make a change which makes it better.**

Demo Gardens – based on discussion, a suggestion was given to post FAQ (frequently asked questions) from volunteers on the outside of our potting shed. Our gardens, especially the vegetable garden, were not worked & cared for as well this year. Janie believes the Association needs to participate in a discussion of ideas for the Demo Gardens in 2017. She has also been approached from the State level with a possibility of RCMG participating in some field trials. It is time to revitalize our Demo Gardens. We are also committed to installing a "mailbox" for "garden" announcements. This item is something that should be asked for from our membership as "mailboxes" can be found in many shapes & sizes. It is possible that someone has an extra one available.

Jenny Byrum gave her report. She is looking to schedule gatherings which include a cookout/ food & work time dedicated to the Demo Gardens. We do need an update as to what has been done, what is needed & what our goal is for volunteer workers. Her vision is to schedule one of these gatherings in Spring, mid-Summer & Fall. She is looking for a date to announce an event in September or October. We need to ask Patty Davenport whether there is a work day scheduled for the National Parks this Fall as well. Jenny's goal is to make our Demo Gardens something we as Master Gardeners are proud of AND introduce the public to the Gardens with a formal event in 2017. She will put together a summary of thoughts on the structure & activities for our Gardens. In response, Janie believes our Gardens should be well organized & maintained at least one year prior to hosting a public event to introduce them.

Autumn Shultz reviewed her list of speakers who are scheduled for upcoming Association meetings. She explained that members will be given a list of (3) invasive plants at the August Association meeting (TN has 135 identified invasive species). Each person will be asked to prepare some information, example or display and bring that to our September meeting. In addition to Officer Elections, Janie will be speaking about invasive plants and members will display their researched information on each invasive. She explained upcoming speaker topics. In August, we will hear about industrial hemp production. For our October meeting, Autumn contacted Rita Venable (from Franklin) to present information. Rita is an expert on butterflies, she presents talks & is an author of several books. She does require compensation for travel to Murfreesboro to address our Association. Motion by Lee Etta and seconded to allow payment of \$118.00 to Rita Venable for her fees to attend our October Association meeting & make a presentation. We were given (4) topics to choose from for her presentation. The topics included: Butterflies of TN (butterfly identification focus), A home for butterflies (butterfly garden focus), Three really good reasons to Plant

Trees for Butterflies (why butterflies need trees) and Monarchs and Milkweeds (showcases our native milkweeds). The Board chose "A home for Butterflies" as her topic.

President Richard Lee addressed the Board in regards to his availability to serve the Association in 2017. Although he had hopes to accomplish several goals this year, time is quickly getting by. Richard finds himself unavailable to serve as President in 2017 due to time considerations. He will gladly serve our Association in another area such as one of the VP offices, if needed.

New Business – Jenny was approached by members Katherine Addison & Linda Lunday about "Giving Back Gardens" where members reach out to the community & provide assistance at someone's house. This is meant for someone who does not have the resources & can't take care of their "garden". She presented this idea to the Board for consideration. Janie feels that our group could sponsor (2) of these events. The idea would be to nominate someone and of course, have that person agree to the idea. It means an application should be developed for consideration & we would need to decide on criterion such as physical limitations, lack of resources, scope of project etc. Our Board welcomed this idea & is enthused about reviewing it further.

Old Business – Sale of merchandise at the Farmers Market. Given that our meeting was long due to no July meeting, discussion of this item was deferred to September's meeting. Bags were sold for \$10 & have sold out. T shirts are still for sale at \$20 each. Sales are being conducted from the token area & the money keeper is in that same area. We would be required to remit monthly sale tax.

Motion by Autumn & seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Etta Cadotte

Lee Etta Cadotte, Secretary