

## **Minutes: Master Gardener's Board Meeting May 2, 2017**

**Officers in Attendance:** Autumn Shultz, Jenny Byrum, Lee Cadotte, Warren Anderson

**Officers Not in Attendance:** Marty Boyce

**Other Recognized Members/Guests:** Anthony Tuggle, County Director; Linda Stevens, Parliamentarian; Jack Smith; Floyd Adams; Rebecca Lucier-Cowan

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President, Autumn Shultz.

### **Report from County Director, Anthony Tuggle:**

1. **New Director:** Anthony said he is actively working on hiring a new director for MG; he has 18 good applications and will ask Autumn to sit in on the interviews.
2. **Educational Outreach:** He said we need to concentrate on the educational outreach aspect of MG and guard against our group being a garden club. He said we need to focus on the educational value of our projects rather than the projects themselves. He wants to have a specific group working on each area.
  - He wants to start the Junior Master Gardener program
  - He would like to renew monthly garden talks at the libraries
3. **Recruiting and Retention of Master Gardeners:** He would like to see classes twice the current size. He suggests we invite non-active MG's back. Include MG's in projects so they feel part of the group.
4. **Leadership development:** He would like to see annual training as part of the extension program with MG running the whole thing.
5. **Pavilion Fans:** In answer to an MG question, Anthony said he will have the existing, broken fans removed and he has no objection to MG purchasing and installing new fans.

**Minutes:** Board minutes for March and April are not yet available

**Financial:** Lee reported we have \$14,988.65 in the checking accounts. She has called everyone who has not paid and dues are still coming in. Two people have requested "inactive" status and she is working with them. Overall, membership is down by 18 people. That loss of revenue will make a difference in our budget. Also there have been unexpected expenses such as having to replace the stolen hose and cart. She said she will be paying for the 4-H scholarship.

### **Presidents Report**

1. **Membership cards:** They have located the file to print the cards. Don Richardson needs to finalize the list of names of MG's who have certification. The new password will be "Cynthiana" which is the name of the grapes in our vineyard.
2. Autumn had the art for the Veggie and Herb gardens and is still working on the Butterfly garden. She will be in touch with the sign company and will try to have them for the Regional Meeting in June. Artwork is still needed for the perennial, turf and rain gardens. She asked Warren to help with the rain garden sign.

3. Project Leaders: Autumn encouraged project leaders to be sure to call on the people who have offered to help in their area. She said to reach out to them regularly “with updates, needs, work times, and asking for suggestions.
4. New Badge Order: We only need one and Anthony will order it.
5. Meeting June 22: Autumn said registration is now open. We will need to have gardens “spiffed up” and will need kitchen help and decorations.
6. Autumn is still trying to locate the audit inventory. It will need to be updated for next year.
7. Wireless Mikes are not working. She said we will need to replace them and suggested we get the shirt clip type. Ken Roberge will know where we have purchased them in the past. Jenny said she knows people at Austin Audio Visual and suggested them as a source.
8. Question of definition of active members and State insurance coverage. Autumn said Natalie has told her that anyone considered “active” by the local group is active on the State level and has insurance coverage.
9. Autumn suggested revising the bylaws to distinguish “active” members from “lifetime” members.

**Vice President Report: Lisa Brent**

1. Cheekwood Visit: The date is June 24 and will include garden tours, Behind the scene talk with a head gardener, an upscale box lunch served in a private dining room and a complimentary pass to the house. The cost is \$23 for Cheekwood members and \$45 for everyone else. Checks to be written to MG and can be paid at the upcoming Association meeting. We must have a minimum of 15 people.
2. Veggie Demo area plans:
  - a. Tomato trial plants will be here to be planted at Saturday’s work day. Interns have volunteered to keep records of the trials
  - b. Need straw bales

**Vice President Outreach: Jenny Byrum**

1. Herb garden is having a workday on Saturday
2. Smart Yards has no official leader at this time. They will meet May 18 at 1 pm at Just Love Coffee
3. Giving Back Gardens: On Saturday May 13 the group will work on weeding and mulching for a wheelchair-bound widow in Smyrna. Work will begin at 8 am, guests are welcome; bring your own tools.

**Vice President Demo Gardens: Marty Boyce**

1. Saturday is workday. Warren reported there is a lot of erosion at the rain garden. Warren plans to plant river oats and iris to slow the water down. Rock is needed all the way to the pond. He has asked everyone to bring a rock on Saturday.
2. Rebecca reported Murfreesboro Newcomers Club/Garden Club will meet at the outdoor classroom on May 15. They will gather at 10 am and meet for about 3 hours. MG’s are needed to help describe the demo gardens.

**Vice President Education: Warren Anderson**

1. Warren asked Anthony who was responsible for the vineyards, MG or MTSU. Dr. Johnston received funds and planted the vines. The variety chosen, Cynthiana (also known as Norton) is well suited to our local climate. The vines are sturdy, they require a minimum of spray and Van Cook controls the grass by mowing. The grapes ripen in August when it is very hot and many grapes go to waste. They have invited St. Andrews Gleaners in. MTSU doesn't have the manpower to help much. Anthony reported the university is to hire two new people to help with the fermentation program. Warren would like to see the vineyard cut down by two rows.

**Shed Mural:**

Linda Lindquist has submitted a sketch and an estimate of \$150.00 for the mural. Motion by Jenny with second by Lee was approved to spend \$150 for the mural.

**Old Business:**

1. Items in storage shed: Floyd said someone needs to identify the owners and ask them to remove it.
2. Farmer's Market Closet has been straightened up. Jenny and others will move MG materials out of the closet and into our own area.

Meeting adjourned: 8 PM