

RUTHERFORD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BOARD MEETING: June 06, 2017

MGRC Board Meeting:

- The meeting was called to Order at 6:00 pm in the Community Center Classroom of Lane Agriculture Park.
- Officers who attended: President Autumn Shultz, VP Lisa Brent, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, VP Outreach Jenny Byrum, VP Demo Gardens Marty Boyce & VP Education Warren Anderson, and myself as secretary (Barbara Donnell)
- Officers not in attendance: none
- Extension Agent: Anthony Tuggle was not present
- Total Attendance: 13
- President Autumn Shultz requested that each topic on the agenda should be kept to 2 minutes in order to finish by 8:00 pm. Autumn invited our guest to speak first.

Recognized Members/Guests Reports:

- 1) Jack Smith (Junior MG Camp, St.Clair's Senior Center Programs):
 - Jack said there had been questions about MGRC doing a Junior MG camp. We did a Junior MG camp for 3 yrs and it did not go well. He thinks the reason was because no one in charge felt a connection and did not relate to 8-9-10 yr olds. Davidson County has had success for 5-years with good magazine coverage. Jack gave Autumn Shultz the name of the POC in MG Davidson County.
 - Jack discussed his participation in the St. Clair's Senior Center (325 St. Clair St., Murfreesboro). He has done over 4-years of unique monthly programs (figs, blueberries, etc). Programs have been on 2nd Monday 10am. Jack showed a "Gardening for Seniors" 3-ring binder book, and also provided sample newsletter. If anyone is interested, St. Clair will do walk-through tours 14-19 June of the recently refurbished facility. Call in advance for tour.
 - June 13th - edu program @Spring Hill, and @ Jackson TN extension office (9am-6pm)
- 2) Keith Miller (Farmer's Market @ Community Center):
 - Farmer's Market report of expenses, etc. are being sent to Autumn & Lee Etta.
 - Annual Farmer's Market financial sheets will be password protected or .pdf and put in a drop box. It was noted that concession income is significantly down from 2016.
 - Taxes: Clarification - - Only items to be sold across-the-window (products such as drinks), should be purchased with "sales tax". Cups, napkins, condiments and such are not a product because they are not "sold".
 - Keith said it was difficult for others to purchase concession supplies because Jenny & Keith have the only two SAM's cards. Although there is some additional expense to obtain a 3rd card, It was agreed that Teresa Fly should also have a SAM's member card.
- 3) Linda Stevens (Farmer's Market @ East Side of the Square, under the Linden tree):
 - Last weeks MG table/tent had ID signs on various groups of weeds. The weed signs generated a lot of walk-by interest. Jane Lee Wise (inactive member status) is working on this as much as she can. Sally Palmer (intern) is also working.
 - Linda asked for other ideas. Lisa Brent offered her extra trial tomato plants. Jenny suggested example bags of soil amendments. Other suggestions were: tree identification, Butterfly garden how-to, asking to see if our regular class speakers to do an abbreviated version.

4) Linda Lindquist (Art/Decorations for Regional Meeting):

- Linda has finished painting the Mural. It just needs sealing. She showed a photograph.
- She requested additional help in decorating for the June 22nd Central Regional Meeting.
 - Several people offered their services

5) Rebecca Cowan (Growth Team Meeting)

- Rebecca shared the highlights of topics discussed during a Growth Team meeting with Anthony Tuttle.
- Topic: Intern Class 2018:
 - Anthony requested a smaller classroom environment. It will be held in “this” classroom.
 - Annual intern class next year will be limited to the size of this classroom.
 - Classes will be at night, starting Saturday Jan 27 for orientation.
 - It will be a 12-week course, Tuesday nights, between Feb 6 - Apr 24.
 - Graduation will be May 1st. There will be a total of 12 classes + orientation + graduation.
 - Anthony wants interns to log their hours throughout the class times.
 - He agreed to pay for the food for evening meals during classes.
- Anthony requested that both certified and new interns commit to 1-project throughout the year then anything extra is ok.
- Anthony has agreed to put a key-code type lock box outside of the community center to permit MG to have access to keys.
- Anthony wants MGRC to be more self sufficient. In the past, our MGRC group had been very independent. But we adapted to accommodate Janie Becker’s more hands-on personality. So we need to go back to being more self sufficient.
- Anthony wants the board to address all of our projects to make sure they are sustainable! Our primary emphasis should be education. Any project we want to keep must have a convincing argument. He mentioned the “Giving Back Gardening” project last month as an example of non-sustainable.
 - Discussion brought out the point that Anthony may not realize that the “Giving Back” project was designed as a one-time only. Jenny added how rewarding it felt to do that project.
 - Jack Smith added, “It’s good to have a diversity in MG projects, it provides members opportunities to explore and grow”.
- There is a concern over the retention of interns and members. Anthony suggested a mentor to be assigned to each intern. What can be done to encourage sustained membership?
 - We currently have 65-certified master gardeners.
 - Anthony is interested in supporting a social get together (under the pavilion).
 - Some complaints have been reported that Association meetings do not start on time, and run on too long, etc.
 - Jack Smith suggested MG members ask a board member to bring forth their ideas for discussion at the board meetings. The board should discuss, decide, and announce decisions/policy rather than opening discussion to the floor during the association meetings.
- A new extension agent for the MG has been hired, more information coming.

Minutes

- The May Board Meeting Minutes were sent to us by Linda Stevens on May 4.
 - Lee Etta Cadotte made a motion to approve the May Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Jenny and approved.
 - Autumn will send the May Board Meeting document to Ken Roberge to post on our web page.

- The May Association Meeting minutes were sent to the board on May 29, by the “new” replacement secretary, Barbara Donnell. However the minutes are not final because Lisa Brent’s review has not been received. *FYI: Lisa met with me after the board meeting. Final version was sent to entire board & Ken Roberge on June 7, 2017.*
- Barbara noted the “MG Guidelines for Secretary”, item #1, request that attendance be noted at all meetings. Attendance has been omitted in the past, but will be re-instated in the minutes starting our next meeting.
- Lee Etta provided Barbara with a 3-ring notebook containing officer duties and parliamentary procedures.

Officer Reports:

1) **Treasurer/ Financial Report:** Lee Etta Cadotte

- Deposits: \$413.00
- Checks written this month: \$976.97 (Included 4H scholarship check)
- Ending Book Balance for May. \$14,424.68

2) **President Report:** Autumn Shultz

- Membership cards: Rebecca merged the file for us. Thank you Rebecca! Nadean will print for the next association meeting.
- Demo Garden Signs – seeking estimates for printing/installing. The original budget for signs was approved at \$1800. There are 3 signs ready now: Vegetable, herb, butterfly. For these first three, the cost of printing and vinyl covering was \$135 total. They will be ready by June 22nd.
- Concessions money goes toward 4-H Camp Scholarship donations. As mentioned in the financial report tonight, the \$500 donation has been made.
- New Badge Order: Anthony - the only one we need is for Terri Rodriguez (Autumn is following up)
- June 22 Event - Registration is open.
 - Encouraging everyone to register by June 15th.
 - Help with decorations and set up is needed. Linda’s art and decorations for event \$300. Motion made and seconded. \$300 expenditure approved.
 - CEU’s for MG members needs to be clear. Registration, Lunch and local travel time to/from home does NOT count. Record education hours based upon the number of tours and workshop hours attended (for example, MGRC, max of 6-hrs for full day).
 - Need volunteers to help the program chairmen during the 1-hr tours of our garden (after lunch).
 - A handout of demo garden tour was requested. Linda will provide Jenny with what she has.
 - 4 Regional Meeting Scholarships were awarded. Autumn requested discussion along with suggested names. Linda Lundy wants to go but has financial train. Jenny suggested Giving one to an exceptional intern (for example: Effie Scott, David James, Don Nalin, Jennifer Salter). Marty suggested we pick people who can attend on Thursday and not allow the gift to be wasted.
- Need to locate the inventory list that Anna has and get it updated. (Need to add hose and hose cart, need to have a further discussion on keeping up and tracking)
- I’ve emailed the unofficial AV Team to help choose a lapel clip style microphones before the regional meeting. (Ken Smith, William Mitchell, Ken Roberge, Jim Phillipson)
- Certification/Question of Lifetime Membership. See Don Richardson’s email. Request that the Board define Lifetime membership and inactive membership (expectations, continue to pay \$30/yr dues, special event participation, re-take the class after 3yrs of inactivity, etc). It was decided that remaining vague was best and deciding on a case-by-case decision. Lisa motions, 2nd Warren, approved to waive dues for 2 new in-active members this year.
- Autumn requested suggestions for Janie’s Thank You Gift. Remember this is a resignation not a retirement. Ideas: Shovel, nice tool set, “Becker Vegetable Bin”, “Plant Tree” idea was rejected

3) **Vice President Report:** Lisa Brent

- Vegetable Demo Garden Area /Tomato Trials.
 - Interesting to see the benefits of cover crops against weeds.
 - Still have a group of extra tomato plants (now re-potted) from the trials that need a home.
 - Lisa will be sending out an email regarding the tomato trials.
 - Speaker for June (Lisa Bedner, Herb Lady). She lives far away and requested \$60 for gas reimbursement. This is within our speaker budget, so no approvals were necessary.
- Cheekwood guided tour plans.
 - Lisa will post FB notices and an email announcement will soon follow with details. Transportation will be by carpool, but will include an “Insiders Tour” and lunch in Cheekwood’s restaurant. Those with Cheekwood memberships will get a 50% discount.
 - Lisa requested a downpayment for the Cheekwood visit (25% down on estimated head count tickets), with rest to be paid in full the week before. MG members must pay by the date of the tour. Exact price is not yet set, date not firmly set either, but will likely be either July 22 or July 29. She will post on FB, and email those who signed up. So far, 30 people have signed up. Motion made by Lee Etta, 2nd by Marty. Approved.

4) **Vice President Outreach:** Jenny Byrum

- Again expressed how “Giving Back Gardens” work day was an uplifting experience
- Frustration sited in Herb demo garden area. Someone pulled up a newly planted Lemon Grass herb (with a sign pointing directly to the new plant) and then put it in the compost bin. Jenny rescued the wilted lemon grass, replanted, and gave it a lot of water.
- Ceiling Fans in the covered pavilion area are unsightly and not the image we want to present to others, especially during the Regional Meeting. If they cannot be replaced, then remove them completely or at least remove the dangling fan blades.
 - The Pavilion is NOT owned by the MG group, has very high ceilings, and we feel it’s not our responsibility to endanger MG with the task of this maintenance.
 - Autumn will talk with Anthony about getting help for ceiling fan replacement, maintenance.

5) **Vice President Demo Gardens:** Marty Boyce

- Demo Garden Workday reminders: First Saturday and Third Tuesday
- Indicated the deflating feeling of no-response on FB when he post workday reminders.
 - Ideas: Post the work times that the leader will be on site, set start time to match weather conditions. Provide coffee and donuts?
- There will be one last-call work day for the demo gardens prior to Regional Meeting.
- Discussion of how to register attendance, and to communicate what needs to be done when people come to do work when Marty is not present. Ideas: To-Do lists posted on the tool shed; use QR code to send message to register attendance.

6) **Vice President Education:** Warren Anderson

- Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation department called. They have two 1-acre lots of planted seeds at wilderness station. They want master gardeners to overlook the flowers that have been planted. Also want bee hive exhibit. Warren is very hesitant regarding the liability of bees with the public, especially children.
 - Discussion: Extra weeding is not in our groups interest. However an Education station might be a possibility.

Old Business not mentioned previously: none

New Business: none

Calendar Items

- June 22nd – Central Regional Meeting here!

Adjourned the board meeting at 8:07pm

Prepared by Barbara Donnell, Secretary MGRC. Last modified 06-08–2017