

RUTHERFORD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS EXE BOARD MEETING: Oct 03, 2017

MGRC Board Meeting:

- The meeting was called to Order at 6:15 pm in the Community Center Classroom of Lane Agriculture Park. Executive Board Meetings occur on first Tuesday of every month.
- Officers who attended (6): President Autumn Shultz (ran late), VP Lisa Brent, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, VP Outreach Jenny Byrum, VP Education Warren Anderson, and myself as secretary (Barbara Donnell)
- Officers not in attendance (-1): VP Demo Gardens Marty Boyce
- Other Recognized Members/Guests present (4): Jack Smith, Linda Stevens, Floyd Adams, and Linda Lindquist
- Extension Agents (1): Anthony Tuggle (absent), and Rachel Eatherly
- Total Attendance: 10

Financials: Lee Etta Codotte sent an Excel spreadsheet for Sep 2017 to the officers this week.

- Check book Deposits for September: \$ 743.05
 - (most from personal MG payments for Cheekwood Gardens tour)
- Check book Expenditures for September: \$ 526.35
- Ending Check Book Balance for September: \$ 14,021.39
- Checks outstanding: one for \$151.75
- A group discussion arose regarding how to indicate on the financials that Cheekwood's trip was 100% paid by those who attended. Each participant paid cash/checks to MGRC, followed by Lee Etta writing one-check to Cheekwood to pay for the event. Another "wash" of income in/out will be upcoming with the T-Shirt order. No one wanted to indicate a "false" read on actual income/expense. The decision was to provide a "Pre-Paid" type line-item in NEXT year's 2018 budget for such occurrences. Other discussion indicated that the upcoming "Happy Harvest" event and Christmas meal will require additional monies. It was decided to handle it this year with an adjustment of current line item categories.
 - Lee Etta made a motion to (a) increase the EVENTS by \$250 to a total of \$850 and (b) increase the meals for meetings by \$750 to a total of \$1250. Autumn seconded the motion. Motion passed by verbal vote.

Agent's Report: Rachel Eatherly

- Rachel reported that she was instructed by Anthony not to report survey findings until he could be present.
 - This announcement was not well received, considering that our election process has some key vacancies and the project-leader roster needs to be addressed.
- Rachel indicated that 48 MG's had responded to the project interest survey.
 - Discussion arose as to whether additional effort should be made to contact the remaining membership. It was suggested that the lists of those who participated in the survey be compared to those who have reported hours. From these findings a one-on-one invitation to participate in the survey could be made. However, the general conscientious was to not pursue because this was an adequate response.
 - Lisa suggested to Rachel to examine the survey and let the project's interest dictate if a current project should be put in "suspension" until a MG became enthusiastic to

lead that project. If someone is placed in charge of a project for which they have no passion, then that project will suffer or go unattended.

- Rachel mentioned that the Extension Coordinator must have access to our MGRC web site (<http://www.mastergardeners-rc.org>). In the past, other counties have had problems of erroneous information on the site combined with the administrator password being forgotten or improperly handled. At present our the web site administrator password is known by: Autumn, Mark Murphy, and Ken Roberge.
- Intern Graduation discussion arose to familiarize Agent Rachel Earthly why graduation was historically held at the Association meeting rather than the last day in the classroom. Graduation at the Association meeting familiarizes the interns with the meeting place/time and introduces them to the other MG members. Transitioning interns to certification membership has historically been a challenge.

President's Report: Autumn Shultz

- ELECTIONS: Richard Lee (absent). Carol Reese and others were asked to help Richard fill the vacancies. Current status of the nominations remains as follows:
 - President: **vacant**
 - Vice President #1: **vacant**
 - Vice President of Demonstrations: Linda Lindquist
 - Vice President of Education: Warren Anderson
 - Vice President of Outreach: **vacant**
 - Treasurer: Lee Etta Cadotte
 - Secretary: Lecia Anderson
- SHADOWING. Barbara was asked to invite Lecia to start shadowing as secretary
- KEY DROP BOX: Autumn will send instructions for using the "Key Drop Box", which contains the keys to all buildings. ONLY the members of the executive board will get this email. Please do NOT share this information with others. We want to honor the safety of the keys because it has been a long journey to acquire a lock box. Previously the practice was to drop by the Extension office before 4pm the day of the meeting; which was very inconvenient !
- DEMO GARDEN SIGNS: Still working on Artistic designs for the two remaining locations (Rain Garden, Perennial Garden).
 - Floyd described that there was a design flaw on a few of the metal signs. Some were a bit too long and Anthony took them to a High School to be sized down. —> Rachel will ask Anthony for the status.
- AWARD CEREMONY @ December Association Meeting: Autumn asked if anyone had a list or remembered the award categories. Lee Etta, who was secretary at that time, thought that she could locate those notes. Barbara suggested that the printer/trophy business may also have a list.
- HOLIDAY MGRC CALENDAR:
 - Nov 20 is the November MGRC Association Meeting
 - Dec 11 is the December MGRC Association Meeting
 - Jan 09 is the MGRC Executive Board Meeting

Vice President Report: Lisa Brent

- Lisa has speakers set for the rest of this year, plus the first part of 2018.
- The speaker for the October meeting will be from “Martin’s Garden Center in Murfreesboro”.

Vice President Outreach: Jenny Byrum.

- Giving back gardens project had only 1 application. The recipient will be reviewed. If accepted, that project will be Saturday, Oct 28. Suzanne LeBeau (intern) will lead this project in 2018.
- By end of Nov, selection of our “2018 Theme” contest winner will be selected. That art/theme will featured on the 2018 front cover of our calendar
- Jenny has the lists of people who ordered the “2017 Themed T-Shirts”.
- Jenny requested a list of certified MG to compare against the membership of the MG Facebook page. She will remove any FB participants who are not certified.
- Happy Harvest workday Nov 4th, 10am-2pm come & go (Jenny has a conflict, hopefully Marty can run it; Stacy Clark may be able to help). Sandwiches, chips & bottled water are to be provided.

Vice President Demo Gardens: Marty Boyce (absent).

Vice President Education: Warren Anderson.

- September Activities:
 - Sept 1st, Humming bird Festival in Barfield Park. RCMG volunteers #3. Kay Blakney, Ron Cozard and myself, staffed a booth at he Humming bird Festival in Barfield Park
 - Sept 15th Water Fest at the Stones River Battlefield, 3rd-5th graders. RCMG volunteered were #1 (only Warren)
 - Sept 30th Stones River Battlefield Invasive Cleanup Day. RCMG volunteered #1 (only Warren). Warren worked with a crew removing invasive “privet”, some of which was 20-ft tall. Another crew removed/replaced a split rail fence.
- October Activities:
 - Oct 01 Rutherford County BeeKeeper meeting. MGRC volunteers #3.
 - Oct 14, 2017 Cleanup day at the Park.
 - Oct 10 was moved to Oct 24. Oaklands Wetland Cleanup (8am to noon)
- Calendar event for 2018: April 14, 2018 Stones River National Battlefield cleanup. POC: Jim Lewis (work: 615-893-9501, cell: 615-904-4977, email: jim_b_lewis@nps.gov) Warren will confirm that date/time.

Old Business not mentioned previously

- PROJECT LEADERS: Autumn sent email to each project leader asking them to send their report to Rachel.
- INTERN TRANSITION TO CERTIFICATION: Discussion regarding historical problem of low retention of interns. There also continues to be a lack of recording of hours. Wondering if there could be more emphasis and demonstration of how to record hours in the class. Can we find ways to permit interns to get their qualification hours before graduation? A focus project (Rain Garden in 2016, Hugelkulture Bed in 2017) is an excellent way to engage the students with knowledge and to accumulate volunteer hours.
- ATTENDANCE RECORDS: Lee Etta stated that the Dec 2016 Association meeting attendance record is misplaced and appears to be missing. These details could be vital in

determining if borderline members have met certification requirements of attending a minimum of 4 association meetings. Autumn will speak with Don Richardson (membership leader) to find a way of securing these sheets and information.

- EXCHANGE of INFORMATION: Some of our membership will not engage in Facebook. Last month we discussed a newsletter. How best can we exchange and safeguard our digital records? Rachel suggested “Google Drive” technology. A “DropBox” technology was also suggested.
- BI-LAWs Dated 2016: Lee Etta reminded the board that we had discussed that some definitions needed to be changed. This has not yet to be addressed. Lisa Brent has the lists of edits that need to be made to the Bylaws next year.

New Business

- Lee Etta will send email in November to the leadership requesting budget requirements.
- Barbara complimented the informative power point presentation that cycles while people are eating their meal prior to the Association Meeting. It generates both discussion and interest. She suggested to Autumn that a slide with a lists of Upcoming Calendar Events would be very helpful.
- Floyd suggested that a “Bat House(s)” would be a good addition to the extension property, particularly since there are numerous mosquito born diseases. This idea was well received but requested additional research to better document the appropriate carpentry details and amount of funding required. If the MGRC provided the funding, then organizations such as: 4H Wildlife Team, Boy/Girl Scouts might be interested such a project. Rachel Singer may already have bat house designs. Floyd will research plans for both the boxes and mounts.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Submitted by Barbara Donnell, Secretary. Last Modified: Oct 15, 2017