

RUTHERFORD CO. MASTER GARDENER EXEC. BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2018

RCMG BOARD MEETING:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center Classroom of the Lane Agriculture Park.
- Officers in attendance: (5) President Jack Smith, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, VP of Education Warren Anderson, VP of Demonstration Gardens Linda Linqvist, and Secretary Lecia Anderson.
- Other members: (3) Autumn Shultz, Floyd Adams and Ken Roberge
- Extension Agent(s): (1) Rachel Eatherly
- Total Attendance: 9

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jack Smith

- Jack discussed changes he will be implementing as President. The meetings will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and meeting length will be limited to an hour or less. He feels this can be done by utilizing the actual jobs of the three Vice Presidents as stated in the Bylaws. Instead of individuals discussing their particular projects, the Vice President will report to the Board on matters that fall under them. Reporting time will be less than 10 minutes unless something of extreme importance needs to be discussed. Vice Presidents are also to give reports at the Association meetings with a time limit of 5 minutes. There have been complaints about the length of our meetings and these new changes should alleviate this. Linda Linqvist suggested that the Vice Presidents can post on Facebook if they feel the need to give more detail about their individual monthly reports.
- If we need to contact Jack please call, email, or text him.
- Going to work on getting our educational programs back to what they should be and get our demo gardens cleaned up.
- The fall extravaganza program will be brought back and redeveloped to reach more people in the community.
- Jack will be January's Association meeting speaker and will be giving the presentation he gave at the St. Clair Senior Center. This will allow members to better understand what we do at the Center.
- The Library Program is scheduled again for this year.
- Association meetings will be shortened with the Vice Presidents doing the reporting for the project leaders. There will be a guest speaker at every meeting.

- Discussion concerning the defining the roll of the VP of Education as stated in the Bylaws along with the vacant VP of Outreach. The main goal of Outreach is to reach the public in Rutherford Co. Also, the importance of the vacant 1st VP position was stressed in that they are responsible for acting on behalf of the President in his absence and to make sure there are speakers at the Association meetings.
- Candidates for the VP vacancies were discussed. Previously, Rocky and Gayle Barnard had been mentioned for Outreach but the fact that they live in Tullahoma would make it difficult. Rachel suggested for the 1st President position Gloria Kane or Jennifer Salter. Ken mentioned Natalie Manor as a possibility but she travels with her job. She has a lot of contacts and as Lee Etta mentioned we have done the external role over the phone before. Rachel mentioned that because of Natalie's busy schedule she should be VP of Outreach and will contact her as well as Jennifer and Gloria. Autumn will compile ideas for 1st VP.
- Bylaw revisions were addressed. Jack stated that the Board should not be able to spend \$500 without Association approval. At one time it was only \$50. Ken stated that the Team Leader is able to spend any amount up to their budget without going to the Association because that budget was already approved. Those items outside their budgets the Board made decisions on approval. Linda stated that although it is in the Bylaws that outside the budget the Board could go to \$500 we could limit that. No decision was made on this but will be discussed at later date. Linda will compile information with regard to this.
- Parliamentary will remain Linda Stevens.

VP OF EDUCATION: Warren Anderson

- Warren reported that 11 have signed up for Garden Basics course that begins on February 1st. \$150 has been spent on the binders. Jack asked about posters. Ken reported there are posters that have been placed around the community and is being announced on the radio. It has been submitted to the Tennessee Magazine and last year we received many applicants from that add alone. He will be sending an email to the applicants this week and will be preparing 40 binders. Newspaper add was not effective last year. Rachel stated it has also been posted on public Facebook page and in the Extension newsletter.
- No confirmation yet from Dr. Johnson from MTSU as to whether he will be available on Jan. 27th to prune grape vines. Warren will not announce at the Assoc. meeting until he gets confirmation that Dr. Johnson and his students are available on that date.
- All the speaker's are lined up for the Garden Basics course.

AGENT'S REPORT: Rachel Eatherly

- Rachel reported that she has been contacted by Safe Haven Shelter asking if we could provide scholarships for the ladies that live at the shelter for the Garden Basics course. Autumn mentioned that last year they had put in their own garden and are working towards being more self sufficient. After discussion it was decided that we would offer the program at a cost of \$10.
- Farmer's Market income is going down because of food trucks. Jack is going to discuss this with Anthony Tuggle, County Director.
- At the January meeting the Mentors will be announced and pinned. Prior to the Association meeting the Growth Team will meet at 4:30 p.m. and the Mentors will meet at 5:30 p.m.
- More events are being posted to the public page of Facebook and it is important that we post to this page. It is a great way of letting the public know about the Master Gardeners. Autumn pointed out that even though someone might not be associated or familiar with the Master Gardeners, if we post events the public will become more familiar with us. Linda mentioned that we are not utilizing our public page as we should. It would be good if each VP could make Rachel aware of information to post to Facebook.
- Linda will be sending email and posting on Facebook to remind Members to pay their dues at January meeting and will be taking photos for the 2018 directory. They actually have until April for inclusion. \$30 for single, \$45 for a couple and those that have 10+ years of service are not required to pay dues but may. They can also mail in their dues to Lee Etta.
- Spring Fling needs to be moved from March 31st as that is Easter weekend. Moved to Sunday, April 8th from 1-4 p.m.

WEB MASTER REPORT: Ken Roberge

- As far as the web page goes, Ken is trying to do some re-organization. There is a link for our members to get inside our web page for the Garden Basics presentations. The same thing has been done for the Master Gardener course, as well. There is a tab, UTTXT-MG2018 and under Community Education go down to Master Gardener and over to 2018 but it requires the password which would be the same as the one to go to the Member's Only page. Discussion of whether we want to maintain the web page as it is costly, however, it makes us more credible as an organization. Board and Association meeting minutes are also posted on this page as well as team leader updates.
- Ken is willing to conduct another web page and an audio visual training course to a select number of members.

- The lack of a true wireless headset/lapel microphone for mobile speaker system was discussed. Rachel is going to check with ext. office to see if perhaps they have a less complicated mobile speaker system.
- Also, our projector does not work with modern computer HDMI connections. We do have a spare bulb for the projector. Not sure that the overhead projector in the conference room works as it has not been used in years.
- This will be Ken's last year to host Garden Basics.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lee Etta Cadotte

- The Budget has been posted and ready for voting. Lee Etta has since updated with the end of year costs as what is posted were end of October's. Ken will repost. Copies of year end costs were handed out and up for approval at January Association meeting. Lee Etta will be out of town and not available to report Financials and will need someone to write receipts for dues. Members will be reminded on Facebook to review Budget prior to Association meeting. Jack will give report.

OTHER BUSINESS: Autumn Schultz

- Lisa Brent has already gotten several speakers lined up for 2018.
- January Newsletter is ready to be posted.
- Rain Garden sign layout was passed around. Autumn mentioned that the sign for the Perineal Garden, instead of listing individual plants it will be geared toward designing a perineal layout. Karen Tomlinson and Susie Hawkins are the perineal garden leaders. They should be contacted for ideas.
- Ken questioned the 4 meeting requirement at Association meetings. He feels we are losing members and income unnecessarily. It was discussed that we have members that send in their dues but do not participate. Of course, they are not considered certified but merely association members. A current member can go inactive for less than five years without having to take course again. In order to do this they fill out a form annually. We are not trying to exclude members if they do not meet the basic requirements to remain certified. Each individual situation will be handled on a case by case basis.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

