

## **RUTHERFORD CO. MASTER GARDENER'S EXEC. BOARD MEETING: July 10, 2018**

### **RCMG BOARD MEETING:**

- The meeting was called to order by President Jack Smith at 5:58 p.m. in the Classroom at the Lane Ag Park Community Center.
- Officers in Attendance : (5) President Jack Smith, VP of Education Warren Anderson, VP of Outreach Susie Hawkins, Treasurer Lee Etta Cadotte, and Secretary Lecia Anderson.
- Officers Absent: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jennifer Salter
- Others in Attendance: (1) Joan McRay
- Extension Agent(s): (1) Rachel Painter
- Total in Attendance: 7

Rachel announced that Joan McRay has come to the meeting tonight to address the Board to ask for approval of Alternative Hours for her service as a Mentor for the Healthy Gardens Project here in Murfreesboro. This project is sponsored by Lutheran Services in Tennessee and is coordinated by Janet Arning. Joan explained to the Board that Lutheran Services in Tennessee provides individualized raised bed gardens to families living in public and subsidized housing to promote nutrition, food sustainability, and personal responsibility. Each person that participates in the program is given the education that is necessary for them to grow their own vegetables as well as the tools, soil, planting materials, fertilizer, herbicide and fungicide needed to raise healthy vegetables. They do need mentors from April – September to provide on-going instruction and answer questions throughout the growing season for the individual gardeners. Mentors will conduct site visits once every 2-3 weeks and will develop relationships with the gardeners and provide them with basic, easy to understand instruction, as well as encouragement. The Healthy Gardens Program also coordinates on-site classes for the gardeners where they learn garden nutrition, canning, seed saving as well as other topical information. At the end of the growing season there is a luncheon with a guest speaker, and prizes and awards are given to the gardeners for their accomplishments. Joan stated that she works with the gardening project at Oakland Housing on Christy Court off of 318 East Lokey Street and is currently working with six gardeners.

Jack mentioned that we had a project similar to this about 8-10 years ago and MGs received volunteer time for their work. This is an opportunity for the MGs to teach as well as a tool for community outreach. Rachel gave a review of Joan's Alternative Hours Request Form. It is noted that Joan received 1 point for the people she will reach, zero points in that she will not be giving a presentation or preparing educational material for the project, and 5 points as this project meets the MG mission extremely well for a total of 6 points. Joan's request for Alternative Hours was therefore approved. Rachel will get in touch with Janet Arning and ask her to speak at an Association meeting to see if there are other Master Gardeners within the group that would be interested in being a Mentor for the Healthy Gardens Project.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jack Smith

- Jack brought up that some of the metal garden signs have not been completed or paid for. Lee Etta stated that the signs that are lacking are the interpretive Perennial and Rain Garden vinyl literature. Rachel also said the vinyl for the short signs that name the various gardens are not finished and that Autumn is working on completing this project. Lee Etta mentioned that we received a \$750 donation from Verizon and have used just under \$250. This donation was set aside for major improvements within the gardens. It was decided that the Verizon donation will be used to pay for the remaining signage.
- The VP of the Demonstration Gardens Linda Linnquist has given her resignation to the Board. The Board discussed a replacement for this position. Being that nominations for next year's Board begins in August it was discussed to leave the position open.

**VP OF OUTREACH:** Susie Hawkins

- Susie reported that a small rock (approx. 80 lbs.) has been donated and placed on the right side of the Perennial bed. She has posted on the private Facebook page that members should come up with a clever name for this rock and there will be a drawing at the next Association meeting. The winner of the drawing will receive a \$10 gift certificate from South Branch. The rock will also have its name placed on it.
- Susie questioned the Board for ideas of reaching the public. Members suggested using as much free publicity as possible like local radio and newspaper advertisement.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Lee Etta Cadotte

The check book balance is currently \$14,222.74 and everyone has been reimbursed for the Summer Social. We only have one outstanding check and there should be monies coming in from the Farmer's Market later this month.

**VP OF EDUCATION:** Warren Anderson

- The lugs for the Grape Harvest have been ordered by Dr. Johnston from M.T.S.U. The harvest is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> and is not being publicly advertised.
- Warren reported that he is going to post on Facebook an exercise on land conversion from corn to grapes as well as a rating system for rating a site to see if it is suitable for a vineyard. Warren has already posted how to calculate the yield of grapes from a row of grapevines.
- Warren has recently written an article in response to a study claiming that biochar is a reliable substitute for peat moss in green houses which he has also posted on Facebook. Biochar is a charcoal like substance made by burning organic material from agricultural and forestry waste that is high in carbon.

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:**

Jennifer was unable to attend tonight's meeting so Lecia reported on her behalf. The Summer Celebration was a great success with 47 people in attendance. Also, the speaker for August will be Natalie Manor who will be speaking on the topic of Compost.

**EXTENSION AGENT:** Rachel Painter

Rachel reported that the Bylaws Review Committee will be meeting again on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The Committee has already completed the review of the first half of the Bylaws. Once the review has been completed and they are rewritten the revised copy will be submitted to members of the Association. Lee Etta brought up the requirements for meeting attendance at the Association (4) and Board meetings (8). Rachel also suggested that perhaps additional responsibilities such as retention of MG members might be assigned to the Outreach position. Jack also mentioned moving the Board meetings to one week prior to the Association meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lecia Anderson