

June 14, 2023 MGF Meeting Minutes

Foundation Meeting Call to Order 10:30AM

Call for Additional Agenda Items

Attendees: [25]

- Opening Remarks: Outstanding day on Garden Tour 2023, with 26 participants. Organizers and hosts did an excellent job. Thanks to all for the great work. Dan Fortier, President
- Motion to Approve Minutes from May 10, 2023: Gini Obert motion to approve. Beatrice Reiss = 2nd Motion carried.
- Treasurer Report from Gilbert Plascencia, Treasurer: Motion to Approve: Gini O 2nd Sheila Gunderson Motion carried.
- Greenhouses: (absent)
- Plant Sale (absent)

New Business

- **Melody** request = absent
 - Dan Fortier recommended developing a Strategic Plan for the Yakima County MGF. Our current plan is outdated. He recommends identifying an outside person to facilitate this process, preferably someone who can volunteer their services, and will identify a candidate. Members of MGF want to be involved, expressing interest to President
 - Executive Board to meet in July 2023 to discuss.
- Janet J requested forming a small committee to explore grants and alternative funding for the organization. This became a discussion about community gardens, but Treasurer Gilbert P supports the idea as a potential source of funds for Operations and Infrastructure. President Dan F recommends incorporating this into the Strategic Plan. Grants may have long term benefits for all operations
 - John Strong is exploring sources of funding for Greenhouse energy saving plans
 - Treasurer Gilbert P recommends meeting with other WA state counties to explore Operational Efficiencies with them; explore sharing Best Practices for all counties
 - Ken Tolonen recommends exploring the WSU Nursery and Greenhouse Mgmt for potential partnerships
- President Dan F shared the Master Gardeners State Awards
 - Committee consists of Melody, Ken, Rick and Camille
 - Nominees include Ed LaCrosse Award > Margaret Morris
 - Media Award > Debra Kroon
 - Master Gardener of the Year > Gilbert Plascencia
 - Nominees have been forwarded to State and will be announced at the State Convention.
- Debra K and Gilbert P are organizing an order for the 50th Anniversary award magazine. An email will be sent out to the organization with details. Motion to order 25 extra copies @ \$17 for gifts moved by Sheila G. 2= Angela G. Motion carries
- Representative MGF of WA State Debra K discussed the need for a Sharing Success Display at the the AEC Conference – will need to have volunteers to develop this.

Old Business

- John Strong withdrew his motion from April 12 to increase sponsorship to the State AEC conference by \$750,
- John Strong moved to add \$750 to our Scholarship Fund [for a total of \$1350] for AEC attendees to offset registration costs. 2= Joan S. Motion carried. Discussion about how to share information and process requests. An email will be sent to group at large for further details.
- Debra Kroon moves that a cap of \$100 scholarship be applied. Beatrice 2nds. Motion carried
- If any funds remain after the AEC conference, Gilbert P moved to send it to the Conference to defray costs. 2= Sheila G. Motion carried.

Conclude Foundation Meeting 11:21 AM

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Master Gardener Program Meeting Begins 11:22AM

Team Updates & Reports

Program Coordinator Patty Ratzlaff

- *Report on the 50th Anniversary Updates May 20th 1PM – 4PM in Prosser WA*
 - Three Yakima County members honored with State awards
 - Michelle Murphy, John Strong and Debra Kroon. A vase was presented.
- **Thank you to** Angela Galbraith for representing our County, and to Ken T and Terry Travis for helping
- **MG State Conference: \$249 to sign up now; \$299 after July 1**
- Kittitas Valley had a lovely display at the Demonstration Garden for Wenatchee 50th Celebration
- MG Douglas/Chelan had a River Xeroscaping Park, she encouraged us to visit.
- Begin collecting names for 2024 MG class and email to Patty (she will send application)
- Patty has extra ribbons and class cards

Give Pulse Patty Ratzlaff

- Give Pulse Training 05/31/23 went fairly well. Common problems were identified and will be addressed in future training, late September 2023

Diagnostic Clinic Margaret Morris

- We need more Veterans to volunteer. Margaret needs volunteers so she can catch up with the background work.
- Training is always available for those who need a refresher.
- Interns need to sign up for their hours.

Farmer's Market Ken Tolonen

- Starts Sunday May 14, 2023 9AM through 10/22/23
 - Capitol Theatre site for now, move to Track 29 site June 25
- Ken & Margaret set up, need more volunteers.
 - Sign up online

Youth Team Michele Murphy and Suzanne

- Suzanne Mc Feat donated to the SMS students peppers she grew, Gini Obert donated her extra tomato plants she grew and I donated sweet and hot peppers along with some purple pole beans. The students got signed parental permission slip so that they could take home some of these plants and some plants grown by the students to start their own home gardens.
Selah middle school- planning to wrap up the school year, the summer work, and

preparation for Fall harvest are nearly complete. Students and adults remain very enthusiastic!

- Selah STEP- sessions for this year are complete. The field trip to Demonstration Garden and the flower pressing activity were a huge success. Thank you to Diana for the tour and activity.
- Farmer's Market- the May activity that Laura coordinated was a huge success! Kids and adults alike were eager to handle the walking stick bugs, and to see the hissing cockroaches. The ladybug craft activity was well received by the younger kids.
- June's project will focus on caterpillars.
- Suzann gave away hundreds of tomato and pepper starts at Buena. A special thanks to her for donating all the soil and for doing the transplanting.

Garden Reports:

- Demonstration Diana P
 - Rewarding to see visitors and good workers. How can we improve partnership with City of Union Gap?
- Heirloom Judith M
 - Garden planted. Vegetable seed garden with minimal work requirements for now. Conservation District redid the water system, so we are identifying hydration issues
- WVFG John Strong
 - Maintenance needed > weeds
 - 20 # of radishes harvested and donated to Food Bank
 - Pea and peppers harvesting to begin
- Kamiakin Gardens Patty R
 - Greg U will report work days and needs to us
- Classes Angela G
 - July line up will be shared via Mail Chimp
- Social Media Presence/Face Book Patty R
 - Janet Roberts mother is an MG in Wenatchee!
- Writers Guild and Speakers Bureau Claudia Steen –
 - Volunteers needed for both to share evidence based gardening information with the public
 - Being timely in articles is important, write about what is current or will happen shortly in the “gardening world” .
 - YHR prefers 700-750 words and pictures to illustrate (2-3)
 - Can include announcements in the articles (e.g upcoming classes)
 - Claudia gave a gardening presentation on May 13th at the LDS church, Englewood
 - Debra K and Gini O gave a vegetable gardening presentation on May 11 at the Chuck Austin Veterans Place
 - Debra K presented on May 30 at the Mt Adams Country Club to the Toppenish Rotary
 - Debra K presented on June 1 to Comprehensive Mental Health, on Pollinators

Good of the Order

Program Meeting Concludes 12:04 PM

Give Pulse Time = 1.5 hr.

Next Meeting July 12, 2023 at Red Barn at 10:30 AM

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