

October 11, 2023 MGF Meeting Minutes

Foundation Meeting Call to Order 10:30 AM

Call for Additional Agenda Items

Attendees: [31] plus Patty Ratzlaff

- Opening Remarks: Dan Fortier, President
 - Provided overview of AEC meeting in Olympia; 39 counties represented with 300+ participants
 - Kudos to our members! These awards are at the Presidential Level of our Nation – a true honor.
 - Yakima County Members recognized in Awards Ceremony. Our County has a lot happening!:
 - 500+ volunteer hours: Jenny Mansfield and Darrell Monroe
 - Lifetime Achievement Awards for 4000+ hours: Darrell Monroe, Ken Tolonen, Margaret Morris, John Strong
 - National Award for Youth Program: Michelle Murphy, Suzann McFeat, Sarah Judd
 - They also presented a well received Sharing Success Presentation.
- Motion to Approve Minutes from September 11, 2023. John Strong: motion to approve. Melody Westmoreland = 2nd. Motion carried.

New Business

Treasurer Gilbert Plascencia provided the Budget Report.

- 6 people attending the AEC Meeting requested and were granted scholarships
- A \$750 grant was given to MGF WA state from Yakima County MGF
- Motion to Approve Treasurers Report Gini Obert 2= John Strong Motion carried

Old Business

- **Annette called out Angela's contribution to the Petals for Patients garden (from the Demonstration Garden)**
- Clarification discussion about Board of Directors meetings, Executive Board Meetings (private meeting to discuss personnel matters) and Strategic Planning Meetings.
 - The Strategic Plan Committee is not the same as the Board (e.g Dan Fortier and Janet Jones will not be participating.)
 - Members at Large encouraged to participate.
 - Rick Russell VP will manage the meetings going forward.
 - Other members thus far include: Beatrice Reiss, Melody Westmoreland, Sheila Gunderson, Jenny Mansfield, Gilbert Plascencia, John Strong, Gini Obert, Annette Olson
 - A sign up sheet for members to join the SPC was circulated, and there will be other members forthcoming.
 - **Discussion about the objectives of an SPC ensued, with commitment to publish minutes of SPC meetings.**

Master Gardener Program Meeting 1115 Team Updates & Reports

Program Coordinator Patty Ratzlaff

- Patty will answer questions through the Newsletter e.g. Advisory Team

- Commissioners Meeting went well. They request that we make Wildfire Preparedness a critical point to help our community get more involved in these practices. Commissioners Priorities are: Wildfire, Food, Youth.
- Reapplications for Membership in Month of November will be sent via email WSU requires we go through Give Pulse
- Reminder that our Foundation website has a link in the footer to our Volunteer Portal. PW sensitive

Green House Lori Harrison and Deanna Husch

- Help is needed with a project – clean 2 tons of sand off table and rebuild table. It is rotten and heavy
 - Janet Jones raised safety concerns for members and asked about contracting out the project, but this was emphatically rejected.
 - John Strong will put out appeal for volunteers.
 - Deanna provided an update on a Green House Project recommended by Debra Kroon in 2022 – researching ways to reduce energy, a major cost for YCMG.
 - Gilbert, Camille and John were on the research committee.
 - o Geothermal energy is not a viable option and therefore is not on our long term agenda due to size (too large)
 - o Deanna provided a thorough and interesting presentation about a cost/energy saving project/Proposal:
 - GREENHOUSE PROJECT First a little background
 - LAST WINTER EARLY SPRING OUR PAST PRESIDENT DEBRA KROON ASKED LORIE HARRISON TO CHAIR A COMMITTEE TO TRY AND DEVELOP A WAY OR WAYS TO REDUCE OUR ENERGY COSTS IN THE GREENHOUSE. GILBERT PLASCENCIA,
 - CAMILLE SMITH, JOHN STRONG AND I VOLUNTEERED TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE. JOHN RESEARCHED GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND UPON DISCUSSION IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT INVOLVED PERHAPS GRANT WRITING AND PARTNERSHIP WITH
 - THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ON A LONG-RANGE PLANNING AGENDA. JOHN SPOKE WITH THE NACHES SCHOOL DISTRICT, WHICH USES GEOTHERMAL ENERGY FOR HEATING AND COOLING.
 - HOWEVER WE DISCOVERED A PRODUCT THAT PROMISES A 47% ENERGY SAVINGS. IT IS A TEXTILE PRODUCED BY LUDVIG SVENSSON, A SWEDISH COMPANY THAT HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR MORE THAN 130 YEARS. THEIR GREENHOUSE
 - TEXTILES ARE USED INTERNATIONALLY ON MORE THAN 49,000 ACRES OF GREENHOUSES. THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE IS OVS, INC. (ORCHARD, VINEYARD SUPPLY) A PARTNER OF WILSON IRRIGATION, WHO JOINED THEIR BUSINESS. OUR
 - REPRESENTATIVE IS ZACH ZIEBACH. AFTER FILLING OUT A QUESTIONNAIRE AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LUDVIG SVENSSON CONSULTANTS, THEY RECOMMENDED THEIR PRODUCT LUXOUS 1547 D FR. THIS PRODUCT WOULD BE INSTALLED
 - INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE OVER THE RAFTERS CROSSWISE ALONG WIDTH AND SECURED WITH C CLIPS. IT OFFERS A 15% SHADE VALUE,

THIS SHADE VALUE WOULD BRING OUR BIG NEWEST GREENHOUSE TO AN EQUAL LIGHT VALUE AS

- THE WEST END OF THE OLDEST GREENHOUSE AND AN ENERGY SAVINGS VALUE OF 47%, WHICH MEANS FOR US, IF WE HAD HAD IT INSTALLED LAST YEAR WE WOULD HAVE SAVED \$9,649.04. WE SPENT \$20,529.87 FOR NATURAL GAS FROM SEPT. OF 2022 THROUGH AUGUST OF THIS YEAR, OUR GROWING YEAR. WE HAVE A QUOTE FROM ZACH OF OVS, INC. FOR THE PRODUCT AND INSTALLATION OF \$11,563.42. IT IS OBVIOUS, THAT IT WILL PAY FOR ITSELF IN LESS THAN TWO
- YEARS. WE ASK THAT THE FOUNDATION APPROVE THIS EXPENSE, SO WE CAN BEGIN INSTALLATION AND START SAVING MONEY THIS FALL. Note: Guaranteed for 5 years with OVS installation.
- Furthermore, she provided this information: POTENTIAL REBATE FROM ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON
- THERE IS AN ADVERTISED REBATE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THERMAL SCREENS IN WASHINGTON STATE GREENHOUSES UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON. APPLICATION IS
- MADE AFTER INSTALLATION AND PAYMENT OF INVOICES. THE POTENTIAL REBATE IS \$1.17 PER SQUARE FOOT OF SCREENED AREA. OUR GREENHOUSE IS 6,930 SQ. FT. OR \$8,108.10 IN REBATES, PAID OUT BETWEEN SIX MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS OF AN ACCEPTED APPLICATION. LUDVIG SVENSSON OFFERS ASSISTANCE IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS.
 - Members asked many informed and interesting questions.
 - Debra Kroon moved to approve the request. Angela Galbraith = 2nd. Motion carried.

Membership List Janet presented updates about the Membership and Foundation Lists, in response to a question from membership last month. She worked closely with Patty R and Debra K to update the rosters.

YCMG has 124 current members. Of these, 83 are Foundation members. It was suggested that changes be made to the process of joining the Foundation (annual renewal). Foundation members will be given identifiers in Meetings to verify only members are voting on proposals and motions

Social Media Presence/Face Book	Andrea Altmayer/Clinic Team > no changes this month
Photo Library	Andrea Altmayer/Janet Roberts > no changes this month
Writer's Guild and Speakers Bureau	Claudia Steen We need more contributors. We had to turn down a speaker request for Sunnyside because it is too far.
Give Pulse	Julie Hunziker
Diagnostic Clinic	Margaret Morris > 9 days left in October to volunteer.
Farmer's Market	Ken Tolonen > has come to an end this year. Better venue, more visible. Able to reach wider audience.

Youth Team Michele Murphy/Sarah Judd Youth is looking for other schools or organizations to partner with. If you have any suggestions please email Michelle or Sarah. -Farmer's Market- the August theme was birds, and the activity was making origami birds, which the kids loved. September was peanut butter and pine cone bird feeders, also a big hit. -Selah Middle School- Fall crops are being harvested, and planning is underway for spring. A number of MG guest speakers have been scheduled to present to the students over the next couple of months. **A photo history of the SMS partnership was presented at the Advanced Education Conference.** -Selah STEP- will start sessions after

the first of the year. -Summitview- Larry and Eileen are working with students again this year, and have installed new grow lights in the classroom. Washington Middle and Naches Middle- we have been in contact the teachers.

Garden Reports:

* Demonstration Diana Pieti/Skip Brockman Leaves falling, cleanup, dahlias. November 3 will be put to bed for winter. Bulbs being planted in raised bed

Certifiable as Native Garden. \$175 scholarship for Peshastin Gardens

* Heirloom Sally Mayo/Janice Miller ready for shut down & mulch soon

* WVFG Camille Smith/John Strong/Kelli Barton 3100# contribution to Food banks as of last week. Harvesting a few more things before putting to bed for winter. Commissioner Amanda McKinney spent an hour with us, wants to visit Greenhouse next.

* Kamiakin Gardens Debra Byrd/Greg Uberuaga

* Classes Various devoted volunteers

- Wapato Community Garden Update Janet Jones/Jennifer Harris We continue to meet weekly. Wapato Middle School helping, FFA involved, Football Team came out to do heavy lifting for raised beds, Fire Department burned weeds, Wapato City Council thrilled.

Good of the Order

Meeting Concludes 1200 PM

Give Pulse Time = 1.5 hrs

Next Meeting November 8, 2023 at Red Barn at 10:30 AM

