

Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County Meeting
Followed by Yakima County Master Gardener Program Meeting
Minutes May 8, 2024

The Foundation Meeting was Called to Order by President Dan Fortier at 10:30 a.m. 22 MGF members were present and signed in at the Foundation meeting. MGF Board members present were Dan Fortier, Rick Russell, Debra Kroon, Sheila Gunderson, and Beatrice Reiss. Annette Olson as Secretary recorded the meeting minutes.

President Dan Fortier congratulated all Master Gardeners for a great Spring Plant Sale.

There was a call for additional Agenda items, Sheila Gunderson requested that discussion of a Master Gardener Field Trip to Bellevue Botanical Gardens be included in this meeting. It was decided to add this item to the Program Meeting.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 2024 meeting. It was moved by Beatrice Reiss and seconded by Deanna Husch that the minutes be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gilbert Plascencia advised that he continues Treasurer's duties until May 2024. Thereafter Amber Knox will assume duties with her return from vacation. Gilbert advised on the financial status of the Foundation and although a current negative balance is showing, the Spring Plant Sale revenues will reverse the negative balance.

A Financial Review Team led by Mary Cleary gave Foundation finances "a clean bill of health." This team made a recommendation for safeguarding Foundation finances for

Team expenditures over \$1,000 requiring additional sign off oversight. Discussion ensued on this topic on how to implement policy based on the team recommendation. It was recommended that the matter be taken to the Foundation Executive Board to develop a policy, thereafter, presenting it to Foundation members. This recommendation was agreed upon.

Gilbert advised that WSU Extension has billed 2022 and 2023 recently for \$982.00. Request made to approve payment. Motion to Approve made by Debra Kroon and seconded by Gini Obert. Approved.

Request made to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion to Approve made by John Strong and seconded by Gini Obert. Approved.

GREENHOUSE

Camille Smith stated that the greenhouse is all cleaned up from the plant sale. Camille is working on soil purchase for next year and contacting all Co-Leads on their growing plans.

PLANT SALE

Deanna Husch said that she is so proud of the Master Gardeners who pitched in and worked as a Real Team!

All interested MGs were asked to join the Plant Sale Debrief at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15.

Deanna advised that she will be stepping away as Plant Sale Co-Lead. Reggie Sanderson and Laura Willett will continue as Co-Leaders. Deanna was complimented for her always pleasant manner in co-leading this important Master Gardener activity.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Rick Russell stated that 25 MGs gave 12 hours of input to develop 5 priorities to carry our Master Gardener Organization forward:

1. Identify and develop a reserve fund. Chair, Gilbert Plascencia.
2. Enhance and expand collaboration and partnerships. Chair, Debra Kroon.
3. Long-term strategy for a single location. Chair, John Strong.
4. Expand annual fundraising sources beyond our current single source plant sale. Chair, Diana Pieti.
5. Analyze Foundation infrastructure for status, needs, and safety. Chair, Janet Jones.

Master Gardeners are encouraged to join one of the five teams to participate in this organizational development.

The Foundation portion of the meeting concluded at 10:58 a.m.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM MEETING

The Program Meeting was called to order at 10:58 a.m.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Patty Ratzlaff opened the meeting complimenting Yakima County Master Gardeners for their friendly interaction with the public as a great representation of the Master Gardener organization.

Concerning name badges, contact Patty if a replacement badge is needed as she will be making the order soon.

Veteran MGs are encouraged to assist and support Interns in meeting their program hour requirements.

When Master Gardeners interact with the public in their capacity as a representative of the organization, the Outreach Form needs to be completed. MGs can text a photo of the completed form to Patty or drop the completed form off at the Clinic Office.

Patty advised that she will be away from her Coordinator duties on medical leave with hip surgery scheduled for 05/21/24. Patty anticipates returning by 06/03/24. MGs may email Patty on issues if they can be handled with her return. Patty's autoreply message will give information about how the need for immediate help will be managed.

Patty advised that 1 Hour GivePulse time for today's meeting should be entered by attendees.

GIVEPULSE

A tip from Julie Hunziker: When entering activity in GivePulse, ALL gardens are considered Demonstration Gardens, so enter DG and then specify the garden that you worked in, as an example, the Heirloom Garden.

FACEBOOK

No report this meeting.

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Kelli Barton advises when signing up to staff the Clinic, that Veterans enter their name in Slot 1 to avoid Interns working alone which is not allowed.

WRITER'S GUILD

Claudia Stein advised that Carol Barany is taking lead on this team as Claudia is doing more travelling. Claudia said that Master Gardener articles come out in the Weekend Addition of the Herald newspaper. Speaking events with local organizations, the Zillah Civic Center, Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, and the Yakima Arboretum, have been successful with good turnout.

FARMER'S MARKET

Ken Tolonen advised that Yakima Master Gardeners has a new canopy with logo that they utilize at the market. Ken sets up between 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. at the Farmer's Market. Ken advised that as the Master Gardener setup is not in the same spot every Sunday, that participants should look on the sign up for the location. Ken advised that the Farmer's Market designates the fourth Sunday as "Youth Sunday."

Youth

Gini Obert leads the Selah Middle School Garden and stated that it is growing! Truckloads of fresh soil, students installing permanent irrigation, new bins donated by Munson Fruit, and plants raised in their greenhouse by the children are being planted by them in the garden. This is some of what is happening at Selah Middle School Garden.

Reggie Sanderson advised that Selah Middle School awarded Gini Obert a "Best of the Best" Volunteer Award on May 7th. Teacher Julie Rust who heads this project for the school, also received this award.

GARDEN TOURS

Sheila Gunderson advised that the Master Gardener Tour is scheduled for Monday, June 10. Meet at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church on 40th Avenue and Englewood in the churches large parking lot.

Co-leaders Sheila and Jenny Mansfield hope to expand the Garden Tour with an excursion to the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. This is a 50-acre garden that began as 7 acres by the Short Family.

Carpooling with a flat fee for riders or hiring a tour bus through the Harmon Center was discussed. Sheila will follow up with the tour bus inquiry.

GARDEN REPORTS

West Valley Food Garden

Planting in the garden has already begun by co-leaders with some success and some loss. This upcoming Saturday May 11, work is scheduled with weeding as the priority and some planting. Camille plans to give any Interns who participate on Saturday an Orientation to the garden about its planning and development.

Demonstration Garden

Kelli Barton said that Skip Brockman's birthday was celebrated today at the garden. Demonstration Garden workdays are switching to Tuesdays now that the Spring Plant Sale has concluded.

Perennials and annuals that were not sold at the plant sale have been donated to the Demonstration Garden and are being planted in the garden.

Understory planting is upcoming.

Kelli reminded us that our Demonstration Garden work pays for our Red Barn use.

The next Foundation Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

For the good of the order, the Master Gardener Program portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.