

Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County Meeting
Followed by Yakima County Master Gardener Program Meeting
Minutes June 12, 2024

Vice President Richard Russell conducted the meeting in the absence of President Dan Fortier. The meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

Twenty participants attended this Foundation Meeting.

Minutes of May 8, 2024 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Russell gave a breakdown of the current fiscal status of the Foundation based on the Plant Sale revenues. Year to date revenue is \$105,000, which was above the anticipated amount for the sale. After cost of goods sold is taken into account, \$89,000 gross profit is available to cover facility and program expenses.

The fiscal information is available on the Master Gardener Volunteer Portal website.

Melody Westmoreland motioned for the Treasurer Report to be approved with Gini Obert seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PLANT SALE

Reggie Sanderson congratulated everyone on a great plant sale.

A Debrief for the Plant Sale will be held on July 10 directly after Foundation meeting. All Team Leaders will be contacted regarding ordering soil for the Spring Sale.

Laura Willett referenced John Strong's recent email on planning for our Master Gardener Spring Sale, the need to review what has been done in the past, and to discuss changes that are needed. A Committee should be formed. All Co-leaders should participate.

Patty Ratzlaff reflected that fewer days scheduled for the plant sale may be helpful. Rick Russell stated that this would be a part of the discussion. Reggie Sanderson stated that plant sale planning is a Foundation matter with Rich Russell confirming that

it is Foundation. Reggie advised that she will contact the Foundation President, then send out emails to setup a meeting before October for planning purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

Awards are upcoming and nominations can be made. At this time, no nominations have been made. The nominating process for the awards, Ed LaCrosse, Media, Lifetime Achievement, is a lengthy process.

There is no requirement that nominations are made, however, this is an opportunity to acknowledge excellence in our fellow Master Gardeners.

The upcoming Advanced Education Conference (AEC) will be an online conference with a registration fee. Scholarships are available for those Master Gardeners who may need financial assistance to participate.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Gilbert Plasencia scheduled and held a committee meeting to setup a Reserve Fund for the Master Gardener Foundation. Five Master Gardeners attended.

The amount of \$80,000 is considered adequate for one to two years to have in reserve.

A recommendation that an Investment Advisory Committee is established of three Master Gardeners to advise Gilbert who selects investments for the Foundation.

Engaging a professional investment advisor for MG investments is under consideration.

This committee will meet again on June 19 at 10:00 a.m. at Alegria Offices and all Master Gardeners were invited.

Diana Pieti advised that the strategic planning committee she sits on has two new members, Mary Hewitt and Jenny Mansfield. The committee is thinking about how to bring in revenue beyond the Spring Plant Sale. A garden related Yard Sale is being considered.

June 24 is the next meeting of this committee at 10:00 a.m. It will be held outside at the Demonstration Garden.

The Foundation portion of the meeting concluded at 10:53 a.m. .

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Patty Ratzlaff began by thanking Yakima County Master Gardeners for the card and all the well wishes in her recovery from surgery. Patty stated that she is still recuperating and although she is not yet “full charge”, anticipates that she will get there soon.

The Advanced Education Conference (AEC) currently costs \$109.00. On July 1, the cost increases to \$139.00. Patty stated that the conference has a great lineup of presenters and encouraged Master Gardeners to check it out on the website.

The AEC will be all virtual.

With your paid tuition, participants have 30 days to view the conference.

Preview the conference through Evergreen Thumb that can be found via a Google search.

Diana Pieti asked how Yakima County Master Gardeners can get featured on Evergreen Thumb. Patty responded that Erin Landon who runs the site posts what she becomes aware of, and interviews result from this. Yakima County MGs were encouraged to contact Erin for feature interviews.

Interns

Patty advised that she has met with sixteen of the eighteen Interns to check on their status, support their certification process, and get feedback from them on their Master Gardener experience and any suggested improvements to the program. Most of the interviews were in-person.

Demographic Collection forms are needed for any activity or event that is provided to the public. Patty suggests inviting public participants to complete the five questions asked: County, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and the Venue visited. Gender, race and ethnicity are required by WSU. Participants can use their Smartphones to respond.

A Spanish language translation of the form is done.

Laura Willett advised that Farmer’s Market has difficulty using the form due to category designations. Patty offered to work with Laura on making improvements to the form.

Submission of this demographic data can be submitted via email which is the preferred method for Patty. However, texting a photo of the form or dropping off a hard copy at the County Extension office is acceptable.

Name tags to be ordered. The cost is \$5.50 or \$6.75 for magnetic.

Interns will receive their name tag at the end of the year with graduation.

GIVEPULSE

Julie Hunziker and Michelle Murphy who are validating GPulse inputs were not present at this meeting. A meeting is upcoming to work out kinks and coordinate resolutions among those who validate GivePulse submissions. Patty advised that there has been some confusion with different delivery styles. Patty stated that she is the decision point on GivePulse submissions.

FACEBOOK

Kim Foster advised that Andrea Altmayer reported that Likes/Views have decreased subsequent to the conclusion of the plant sale. There are 400 – 500 that follow the Master Gardener Facebook page. The most popular post is the Saturday classes in the gardens.

A statewide Answer Group is convening on June 20, the first meeting of this group, to increase clinic effectiveness. A goal is to develop the aspects of a high quality response to the public. This is a Clark County initiative, the committee asked Yakima to share tips.

Andrea Altmayer had the idea to train Interns on staffing duties at the Clinic. Andrea “on-boarded” Interns in three weeks.

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

Rick Russell advised that Andrea Altmayer developed a new Orientation document for the Clinic. He encouraged both Veteran MGs and Interns to take advantage of this document and take it along to the Clinic when staffing there.

Sally Mayo inquired how accessible the Clinic computer and materials are for visually challenged people as previously it had not been workable. Since upgrades have not been made, a suggestion to partner with a more sighted partner may work. It was

stated that the County of Yakima controls the computer at the County Extension Office where the Clinic is located.

WRITER'S GUILD

Library presentations were discussed headed by Carol Barany.

Don Flyckt, Caroline Crowley, and Lindy Sheehan have joined the Master Gardener's Writer's Guild.

Others who wish to write gardening articles should contact Carol Barany or Claudia Stein. "If a topic is interesting to us, it is interesting to readers."

FARMER'S MARKET

Ken Tolonen and Laura Willett co-lead the Farmer's Market activity. Laura advised that sign up is available through the end of July. With sign up, more particulars will be sent via email. The location of the Master Gardener booth was changed as it was located too near the music speakers and communication with the public and each other was challenging, especially with orienting Interns.

YOUTH

Gini Obert advised that the Master Gardener team had its final meeting for this season with Selah Middle School students. It was mostly visiting with the children and sharing lemonade. The Master Gardener volunteers at the school garden and greenhouse are all sweetly called the "Grandmas." The program will resume in the fall with planning to begin in August.

Gini brought ten charming, hand drawn Thank You Cards from individual students for Angela Galbreath. The children thanked Angela for her kind instruction and wished her a speedy recovery. Those cards were delivered to Angela on June 12 after the Foundation meeting.

There are no Co-leaders designated for Youth Team at this time.

GARDEN TOUR

Jenny Mansfield advised that the Bellevue Botanical Garden outing was cancelled due to lack of participants so that a chartered bus was financially unfeasible.

Jenny stated that this year's Master Gardener tour was a great success with 25 Master Gardeners in all participating. Jenny spoke glowingly of each garden visited and the strengths of each one: Petals for Patients in Cowiche Canyon, Lindy Sheehan who personally built her ergonomic bins with plantings all from seed and rejuvenated her relatively new property, Greg Uberuaga, and his profusion of flowers where previously lawn prevailed and a with a terrific vegetable garden, and Ana Villasenor completing the tour with lunch in her garden. Ana took out her lawn front and back and she loves it this way!

GARDEN REPORTS:

West Valley Food Garden-

Julie Hunziker and Darrell Monroe to present Tomato Pruning and Plant Support on June 15.

Weeding in the Food Garden is ongoing.

This past Thursday, 15 pounds of radishes were harvested.

Rabbits are feasting too.

Heirloom Garden

Sally Mayo stated that with the removal of the Arborvitaes along the south side, the garden has gone from a shade to a sun garden.

The weeding is done thanks to the help of the Interns.

Co-lead Janice Miller is anticipating a class on seed garden use, especially for the Interns benefit.

The Heirloom Garden had 26 participants for their first class, Common Vegetable Garden Problems.

Kamiakin Gardens

Debra Byrd is in the process of hiring a fulltime gardener. Their beds are planted with additional perennial plants for the pollinators.

Demonstration Garden

Kelli Barton stated that the garden is doing well despite four recent water breaks. Most of the garden spaces have been adopted with only a couple of them still available for adoption.

Diana Pieti and her son built a new bridge for the Children's Garden.

The 2024 Interns adopted the Children's Garden as a group. They are Gung -Ho! A July 16 Children's Activity Day is planned at the Demonstration Garden. It will run from 10am – noon. That date is a usual Tuesday workday at Demonstration Garden. Activities to include: a rock hunt, painting, a scavenger hunt and more.

Our VooDoo Lily bloomed on June 11.

A walk through of the Demonstration Garden was encouraged as it is in nice bloom.

The June 8 class at the Demonstration Garden by Debra Kroon had 28 participants. The subject, Transitioning to Natives: A Trio of Trials was well received and many of the participants viewed native beds 1, 2, and 3 and had many questions and favorable comments.

For the good of the order, the Master Gardener Program portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m. Patty Ratzlaff advised to enter 90 minutes to GivePulse for this meeting.