**Central Gorge Master Gardener**™ **Association**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held via Zoom on Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Virtual or in person

**Attendees:** Black, Jim; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Corl, Mary; Dameier, Margo; Harty, Jen; Montag, Sandy; Rousseau, Sandi; Stevens, John; Wickersham, Megan; Willett, Tracy; Willis, Joanne; Winfield, Bill

**Treasurer’s Report** (Joanne): Joanne sent out the year end report. She is pulling together a brief report for the next newsletter. There will also be a brief report to go over the year’s activities.

The dues are $15 for individuals. In the past, $10 of that goes to CGMGA and $5 goes to OMGA; OMGA hasn’t informed us of their dues this year so we don’t know the exact split for 2024. We do not collect dues from lifetime and associate members. There was some discussion on whether people in the free categories could be encouraged to pay the dues as a donation to the organization.

OMGA dues may be going up this year. We already announced the dues for this year, so we will not raise ours this year. $15 in dues was approved for 2024.

We have about 20 lifetime members, some of them pay the optional dues.

Joanne is looking into other ways to pay, such as a square account, to make it easy for life timers to donate when he/she registers.

There was a discussion on how the dues are listed on the application.

**Secretary’s Report** (Christie): Changes to the December minutes have been incorporated. The minutes were approved.

**Coordinator’s Report** (Megan): There will be a trainee only orientation meeting on February 5. This will be at the church. Megan will go through the handbook and the association details. This will give the new people a chance to get grounded before coming to a class with all of the returning Master Gardeners.

The first class for everyone will be February 7.

The mentors have been assigned. They need to determine if their mentees prefer texts, emails, or phone calls. There could be more bonding opportunities for trainees. Megan would love ideas for ways to facilitate this. This might help retention.

There is a new office manager, Lisa Farrell, who is part time and split between MCAREC and Extension. There is a new director at MCCAREC, Brian Pearson. There is also a new statewide Master Gardener manager, Leslie Madsen (previously called coordinator).

There will be a potluck at the Intro Class and someone needs to coordinate this. Jen will bring in plates and napkins in case people forget to bring their own. Joanne has some extra plastic silverware (somewhat of an oxymoron!).

The church cannot store our hospitality items this year. We might want to encourage people to bring in their own beverages and also they can bring in things to share, like cookies. There will be an update in the newsletter about this change.

Megan suggested that the board may want to purchase swag for the trainee bags, as they did last year. Jen has some peat pots. There are always leftover seeds. OSU swag is also good. It was decided to not purchase anything additional.

Megan needs help updating the handbook. Jim, Margo, and Sandi will work on it. Joanne will update the Learning Garden portion with photos, Tracy will update the FISH garden section.

There will be more effort getting new people more slowly integrated into projects. The intent is to work harder to not overwhelm them, but still invite them to participate. The seed starting will be early on, and will have an emphasis on including trainees.

**Project Reports** (Jen): Jen sent out a template for reporting on the projects. This template is a work in progress. Sandi found the note had too many bolds and underlines to be able to understand the emphasis. She also thought the template was a bit complex to use every time.

**Publicity Report** (Margo): There were no questions on the publicity report that was sent out.

**Holiday Greenery Event** (Shari): There has been an ongoing discussion on the ways the holiday greenery event will evolve. Shari might have a co-chair for the event next year. Shari is hesitant to invite outside people, like garden clubs, without discussing the capacity concerns. If we added many more people, we might want to move it to a new venue or consider having an additional session.

One idea for an educational event would be to have a wreath and bow making public event held earlier in the year.

**Plant Sale** (Sandi): The meeting minutes were sent out from yesterday’s plant sale meeting. There is a good variety of days and times for seed starting.

Margo is working with Anne on promotion of the kids corner for the plant sale.

**Education Committee** (Jen): Articles were completed for January and February.

Kathy M. and Jen want to make a list of community gardens that are available and have handouts and fliers available for this, including something at plant clinics.

Jen is setting up a meeting with Gorge Grown. She met with Rachael, the chair. She wants to collaborate with Gorge Grown on efforts like gleaning and community gardening.

The education committee will be meeting next week. There was a discussion about swag, like t-shirts. There is always a concern about sizes, styles, and colors. One idea on shirts is to have people provide their own shirts, and then have them silk-screened.

There has been some discussion about educational vignettes at the plant sale.

**Bylaws** (Jen): The bylaws have been edited as changes and clarifications come up, but no changes are proposed at this time.

**Members at Large** (Jen): The members at large are Barbara S, Tracy W, Bill W, and Shari B. This was approved.

**Newsletter** (Shari): The newsletter deadline is January 19. There will be an announcement about the passing of Fred Paige.

**Donated Plants** (Sandi): In the plant sale meeting yesterday, Margo said she has hens and chicks she can donate. They were planning on prepping them by cleaning off all of the soil. They asked Megan if this is allowed. She believes we will get the same response we have had in the past - that we cannot do this. There may also be a licensing issue from the nursery license we purchase.

The native plants that were re-potted last year for resale came from the soil and water conservation district and were bare root.

There was a discussion on the website to add to the banner (continued from yesterday’s plant sale meeting), and there were no good alternatives.

**Website** (Jen): Jen led a discussion about the new website. It has been going well.

**Meeting Date** (Jen): The March executive committee meeting will be moved to March 20. There will be a financial audit, and Jen and Jim will both participate in it.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley