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

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Virtual or in person

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

**Treasurer’s Report** (Joanne): Joanne sent out the Treasurer’s report.

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

**Coordinator’s Report** (Megan): There has been good attendance for classes - averaging 50-55 attendees. Some of the new members are attending via zoom. Megan would prefer that people attend in person, but for some, it is hard for them to get in. There was some discussion on whether we continue the hybrid classes. One suggestion was to record, rather than to do Zoom. In general, people are more likely to watch a live zoom than they are a recording. One consideration, however, is that hybrid classes allow more accessibility for people with challenges like work-life balance, or physical limitations.

Everybody is encouraged to be at the plant clinic class, if they can.

We partnered with Lauren from Extension and the housing authority project at WyEast Vista Apartments garden. There will be seed starting and raised bed building events.

Ace and Tum-a-lum are the only plant clinics on Saturday, for now. One idea was adding something like the White Salmon library. The festivals or other events on the Washington side might be better than Ace or Dickey Farms over there. They would reach different people.

There is a Extension Volunteer Open House on March 29.

**Plant Sale** (Shari): Shari and Eric have received two new banners for the plant sale. Jackson Park is now hanging banners on the fence as well as overhead, and they will hang one of our older banners on the fence on April 1st for the week. There is some risk that a banner there might be stolen, so Shari had to sign a waiver saying we are willing to take the risk.

**FISH Garden** (Tracy): The FISH garden has seed starting kits that were donated from WalMart. There was some discussion on whether the education committee could use some of that. Megan and Tracy will be in communication for using and dividing them up, with a plan to use at Wy’East Vista apartments.

**Social Committee** *(now team)* (Barbara): This is a casual team. They are willing to do a monthly report, but were not anticipating this. One of the things they are doing is scheduling garden visits. There needs to be a discussion on whether garden visits count as hours toward recertification. One of the distinguishing factors would be whether it is primarily social, or whether it is educational.

**WA County Pollinator Garden** (Sandi): Sandi contacted Washington County Master Gardeners about a visit to the Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek and the Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate. They suggested the same day as a pollinator class in June. Sandi will follow up on the date.

**Committees** (Margo): Margo noted that she understands that new committees are supposed to be voted on according to the by-laws, and, if they have not been, they should be a “team”.

**Learning Garden** (Sandi): The learning garden had their first work party and a new trainee attended.

They are working with the contractors at the Learning Garden about installing lines under the concrete before it is poured.

**Education Team** (Jen): The education team has not met yet. Jen asked where the pamphlet with the Cindy Collins bookplate will be distributed and there was a discussion about that. The focus of the booklet is living in an orchard community. CGMGA sponsored a section of the brochure and CGNGA printed 250 copies. Megan noted we have a PDF of the pamphlet, so we can post that. Eric said we should ask the publisher if we can get the bookplate PDF. We may want to add a QR code to the brochure so people can find the PDF.

**Workshops** (Jen): The first two public workshops were well attended, were well received, and they were very interactive.

**Día de los Niños** (Jen): Master Gardeners will be attending Día de los Niños (Day of the Children) at Mid Valley on April 28. We need Spanish-speaking volunteers at that event.

**Radio Tierra** (Leanne): Dennis and Leanne are doing another program on Radio Tierra.

**Tool Library** (Leanne) The tool library has been very popular. We need to find out whether they want more tools for the tool library. The library does not want sharp cutting tools. We could specify accepting new or very gently used tool donations from Master Gardeners. We might want to do a tool swap with Master Gardeners. Some tools that would be especially good are those that tend to be expensive, but that you only use a time or two a year.

**Trip to Toppenish** (Jim): Jim wanted to assess who might be interested in a field trip to Toppenish, about which he emailed details.

**JOG Mini College** (Eric): Mini College, now JOG, will be in July. Eric wants to start thinking about items for the silent auction, or whether we would want to opt out and give $350 cash instead. The board voted to go with the cash option.

**Technology** (Eric): We might want to purchase some used equipment that we are currently using on loan from Mike Narramore, who is leaving. We need to identify new people that can assist with technology.

**Website** (Jen): The website is ready to go live but it continually needs to be tweaked.

**Financial Audit** (Joanne): Joanne and John are setting up an audit.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley