**Central Gorge Master Gardener Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

6/12/2024
Held in person and by zoom

Attendees: Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Harty Jen; Hogie, Leanne; Kelley, Jan; Rousseau, Sandi; Wickersham, Megan; Willett, Tracy; Willis, Joanne; Winfield, Bill

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report (Joanne): The treasurer’s report was approved with no opposition. Joanne explained that there was a $3500 grant available through the Gorge Community Foundation. After some discussion, it was decided that the $3500 will be reinvested back into the principal of the foundation as we don’t need it now. Joanne explained that a $40k CD would become due in July. Discussions took place regarding possible need for funds but as yet no estimates are available. At the July meeting, the Executive Committee will decide on use or reinvestment of the funds from the CD. Joanne will also investigate the Umpqua money market as a possible spot to put money as it would provide easy access. John reported to Joanne that we can determine in July if we want to renew our CD. It is due July 27, 2024

The T-Mobile hotspot was discussed, as we’re really not using it much anymore. At almost $400/year, it was moved by Joanne and seconded by Bill that we discontinue the hotspot service.

Megan: We’ll use the $2,000 that OSU provides for July 2024 to June 2025 right away to repair the broken water lines in the Learning Garden. Jack is the best to do this work in running new lines, though he’s very busy now with orchard responsibilities. We want to run the main line near the building on the east side with a 90 degree turn to go toward the raised beds. We want good documentation as to where the lines are located. Joanne will seek another bid to do the irrigation repairs since Jack is very busy with orchard work. (Post Meeting Note: Jack is ready to start the irrigation project and has already purchased the needed supplies, so we will not seek another bid.)

Streets Alive, a walking tour through neighborhoods, is a program that we’re interested in participating in. It is scheduled for the second Saturday in September. There was a positive response regarding this from the Education Committee. Lauren is starting to request potential properties. Proposals should go to Megan and Lauren. Master Gardeners would staff these garden visits. Streets Alive has its own website and sponsors. It would be geared toward families. We could pass out our Living Among Orchards. Lauren will take the lead, and the education committee will send out the publicity and recruit Master Gardener volunteers.

Jim Black resigned as president elect. We will now begin a search for his replacement. Jen could continue as a president for a second year, but would prefer not to do so. It would be most desirable if the Master Gardener has tech skills. Beth Flake won’t be considered as she~~’s~~ has taken on other responsibilities for next year.

We did confirm that we have a policy in place for the Sunshine Committee, and as of yet have not asked anyone to chair or participate on that committee. Discussion around the purchase of flowers resulted in the decision to allow the committee to make decisions about flowers, cards, etc. The EC will be informed of decisions and can modify the policy if needed. Asking Paul Matalucci to provide flower arrangements is a cost-effective avenue to pursue. Joanne will follow up for flowers from Paul for Barbara Spezia who just had back surgery.

Margo provided good data on the number of visitors (~~116~~ over 300) for the plant sale. It’s much more challenging to determine contacts through various social media sites and the newspaper.

Committees:
Canopies: It was decided that the purchase of 4 more smaller canopies, such as the 8’x8’ one that Megan purchased for $110 would be great, connecting them as needed, rather than the purchase of larger canopies. This would be with Association funds with our credit card.

Plant sale signage: We need better signs, with 4 inserts. They should say: Master Gardener Plant Sale Today with our logo and room for an arrow. Details will be finalized soon.

Educational outreach team: Eric will lead the cleaning out of space in the garden shed, to get trays and plant sale supplies out of the greenhouse. Eric and Sandi will go through the signs and we’ll get rid of some of the heavier wooden signs.

Hood River County Fair: We’ll likely have our display up for Wednesday-Friday, not Saturday as the attendance in the 4-H building is minimal. It was decided we will not pay the asking fee of $500 for a booth but we are willing to pay for the daily bracelet fees.

Online plant sale: There was discussion about online sales pros/cons, and possible opportunities for offering personalized service to customers who may need it. There are lots of educational opportunities with the in-person sale. The idea of personal shoppers is attractive as opportunities for volunteers and customers who are not able to come in person. There is so much more time spent in working on the online portion of the plant sale. We do need to explain to our new trainees about other volunteer opportunities, which some seem to miss. Joanne mentioned that it’s easier to get folks to take on responsibilities on a 1-day sale versus the online one too. Jen will send out a voting poll to the EC next week to determine if we will have an online plant sale in addition to the in-person sale.

OMGA: Eric briefly mentioned that Josephine County likely will lose their county funding, so their extension office will close. That generated a brief discussion about our facing an extension levy ourselves in another year. Eric mentioned the Joy of Gardening coming up in July and Send-a-Friend, of which Mary Corl is interested in taking advantage of.

 We adjourned at 11:58am.

Minutes submitted by Shari Bosler