**Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held via Zoom and In-Person on Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Hood River Extension Office Meeting Room

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2024

**Attendees:** Barbara Spezia, Bill Winfield, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Mary Corl, Megan Wichersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler, Tracy Willett

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

**Treasurer’s Report** (Joanne) The scheduled audit has been postponed. There was a question regarding undisbursed funds from the Karl Carlson grant. Joanne will get information to Tracy and Jen. Jen paid the security deposit for a room at the Riverside Church for the Recognition Banquet. It will be refunded to her and CGMGA will pay the room rent. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

**Secretary Minutes** (Donna) Some corrections were made today. Donna will send updated minutes to Jen. The minutes were approved.

**Committees:**

**OMGA** **Report** (Eric) There are 2-3 things going on at the State level. The Memorandum of Agreement with OSU is under review. A few changes will be made but not many. Each chapter looks different and the goal is to standardize the chapters in areas of job descriptions, background checks, best practices for plant sales regarding dig and divide, etc.

OMGA is going to increase the number and size of grants, as well as reduce dues from $7 to five dollars.

Megan discussed “What is an Associate Member?” An associate is a member of an association but cannot wear a Master Gardener badge. Life time members still need to maintain certifications with 10 hours of education and 20 volunteer hours. The State description may clarify better. The Recognition Banquet may be a good time to explain what it means to be an Associate Member.

CGMGA prefers to keep a member with some volunteer time rather than not at all and assist in finding ways to keep a member current. OSU is looking to be more flexible. The rub comes when not all chapters are meeting the same requirements to be a MG and wear badges.

**Wreath Committee** (Shari) The wreath making dates were discussed. Options included morning and/or afternoon sessions, one or two days, Thanksgiving weekend or not, Dec 7 or 8. Shari will notify Megan when a date has been confirmed.

**Educational Outreach Committee** (Jen) El Grito in White Salmon was very successful and well attended. Lots of seeds and information were given out as well as receiving lots of questions. It was interesting that not all seeds were familiar to the Hispanic community. For example, green beans were not a 1st choice. We will do it again.

**Publicity Committee** (Jen) A meeting is scheduled in November to coordinate all CGMGA communications going out. The Tool Workshop, with actual tool sharpening, is the last event of the year.

Megan noted the importance of notifying her of any injury or potential injury at a work party or MG event. It is required for documentation and insurance reporting. Also all MGs are considered Mandatory Reporters.

**Media Committee** (Jen) Margo is on vacation and sent in her report.

**November Recognition Committee** (Jen) RSVPs for attendance to the November 14 event are coming in slowly. Paul asked for volunteers to make flower centerpieces. Jen is looking for a Co-Chair to coordinate and help with the banquet. The deadline for award nominations to be sent to Jen is this Friday. Our website has been updated with the awards list.

**Website Committee** (Jen) Questions and comments are welcome with corrections ongoing. Only the Website Committee can make changes. It was discussed uploading or adding a link to past Spotlight articles. In the future, send articles for the website in a **word doc format**. Pictures interacting with the public to complement pictures with MG’s are needed. Verbal permission is all that is needed to use pictures for media purposes. Send pictures to Jen or Megan.

Megan’s Monday Update seems to be the main source for event information. That information now lives on our website **(centralgorgemga.org)** and members are encouraged to use it for reference.

**Award Committee** (Jen) Categories are: Impact/Projects, Community Outreach, Special Services, Chapter Educator, Plant Clinic and Communications. Awards Policy can be reviewed at any time with criteria changes, such as giving an award to a person more than once, two times in a row etc. Send nominations to Jen.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

Minutes were taken by Donna DesRochers.