

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

Held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2024

**Attendees:** Barbara Spezia, Bill Winfield, Margo Damier, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Leanne Hogie, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Mary Corl, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

**Announcements** (Jen) Megan is taking a pesticide class and is unavailable today. A Thank you from Anne Gehrig was read.

**Secretary Minutes** (Donna) The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (Joanne) Joanne noted that the 2025 budget sent out earlier has some minor changes. Items with changes include: Karl Carlsen grant, bee costs added and calculations will be verified. No comments from the membership have been received. A final version will be sent to Jen and Megan with updated minor changes. The 2025 Budget was approved with minor changes.

A debit card in Tracy's name was requested for expenditures for the Karl Carlsen grant. Positive and negative concerns, the current process for receipt reimbursement and who has current use of a MG credit card were discussed. Since it can be canceled at any time, a debit card can be applied for at this time.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **Committees:**

**OMGA Report** (Eric) A report was submitted. No other changes are expected until after the first of the year. Thank you to Mary Corl for being available as chapter representative.

**Outreach Committee** (Jen) A report was submitted. This Friday, November 15, a lunch meeting for about 15 people is scheduled. Topics include streamlining and coordinating messages from Outreach, Publicity and Media committees.

**Publicity Committee** (Margo) A report was submitted. No questions.

**Plant Sale Committee** (Jen) The Steering Committee will meet on Monday, December 2, on Zoom. Items for discussion include: native plants (Margo), seed selection (Paul) and structuring a new process to run the sale. The committee of about 20 people is looking for additional volunteers to help.

**Wreath Committee/Holiday Greenery Committee** (Shari) A report was submitted. Since there has been no response for volunteers, a notice will be sent out again. Dates at the Spirit of Grace location are: Bows (Shari & Carol Brown) Thursday, November

21, 9am-12:30pm. Greenery (Shari) Sunday, December 1, 10am-3pm. This year the times have been extended to offer more options to attend for part or all of the session.

**Fish Garden Committee** (Jen) Tracy is not available but sent in a report. There was discussion on how to sell a \$400 lawn mower that was too narrow for the desired use and was used very little. Information will go out in a Megan's Monday Update to notify anyone interested to let Megan or Jen know by a certain date of the raffle. A name will be drawn to win the opportunity to purchase the mower for \$200.

**Megan's Report** (Jen) Megan will send out the training schedule for next year, is still looking for a speaker, asked the executive committee to fill out an end of year reflection form, will send out an online plant questions statistics report next month and has received 19 new Master Gardener applications.

Megan asked the executive committee to consider printing the member directory in sections (current, new, associate, lifetime members, etc.) It was agreed to keep the member list in alphabetical order, with the online version showing no addresses and another version showing addresses for executive committee members only.

Megan was happy to see 19 of 28 trainees certified. These are excellent numbers.

**Learning Garden Committee** (Joanne) A bid for 12'x12'x4" concrete pad, which included excavation and labor, under the lean to next to the shed was received. There is a 4-yard minimum concrete order and since the project needs 2 yards how to use the remaining 2 yards was discussed. Talking points included: use it for an 8 foot piece along back of the shed, keep the project within the overall vision, it is dirt now, NW corner is a high point, pour concrete to keep water away from the shed, past plans included more hardscape, squirrels are digging holes, would keep weeds down, keep 2' from the fence, step can be fixed with gravel, there is electricity available for demonstrations, take advantage of the economy, temperature limitations to pour concrete this time of the year, and it is ok to pour in the Spring if the pouring window is missed.

It was noted that using the extra concrete is a good concept, but this was the first time it was discussed and was not on the agenda.

The budget for the project is \$2000 and how to pay for the estimated additional \$2000 was discussed. Options include using funds from the Learning Garden Budget or Capital Expenditure money. It was approved to use Capital Expenditure funds for the additional cost to expand the project to use 4 yards of concrete.

**Non Returning MG** (Sandi) Concern of several long time Master Gardeners not returning was raised. It was determined that several are associate members, volunteer occasionally, have other interests or health reasons. It can be normal to lose about 7-8 long time MG members every year.

**November Recognition Committee** (Jen) 47 RSVP's have been received and it is less than last year. Physical invitations were sent out last year but not this year because of the cost. Paul is creating floral arrangements that will be raffled off. The front door and back door to church will be open this year.

**Website Committee** (Jen) Sandi has plant sale files that can be uploaded on Google Drive. Getting more storage for files and how Google Drive works was discussed. Google Drive is a storage facility. Nonprofits have access to 30 gigabytes of storage and a free domain for a website. CGMA needed to have a shared place for committee members to have easy access to information and move away from using personal files storage. Current financial information and some of the attachments on Megan's Monday Update are available on Google Drive. Jen can set up a notification when changes are made on Google Drive and send passwords to any Executive member that wants one.

(Jen) Jen Monroe will be invited to attend Executive meetings starting in December. All Executive meetings are open to everyone. See everyone tomorrow night at Riverside Church.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

Minutes were taken by Donna DesRochers.