

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom and In-Person on Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Hood River Extension Office Meeting Room

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Attendees: Bill Winfield, Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Jen Monroe, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Margo Dameier, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. President Elect Jen Monroe was welcomed.

Secretary Minutes (Donna) The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Joanne) Audit files for May, June, July, August and September were given to Eric and Shari for review. Credit card vs debit card was discussed again. Joanne and Tracy were authorized to have credit cards. The Treasurer's report was approved.

OMGA Report (Eric) A report was submitted. OMGA is working on goal setting, looking for a president and planning the July 11-12, 2025, Mini College.

Coordinators Report (Megan) The Corvallis meeting was great for networking. Minor changes from the state level are expected such as required training surrounding youth safety, mandatory reporters and Civil Rights reporting. It was noted that we are doing the work now. A Justice poster and Discrimination Policy should be displayed at all public events, on slides, printed media, emails and publications. There are Brand Guidelines available for reference.

Eric reported that OMGA is discussing conflict resolution between members and chapter coordinators. Conflict resolution and an Ombudsman committee are available as needed. This could be an idea for a presentation.

20 new trainees have applied for membership in 2025, and applications are still being accepted to fill 25 slots. Mentors remind your trainees to re-apply now. Megan is looking for additional mentors.

Recertification for past members and Associate members was discussed. Currently we allow members to recertify after a couple of years without retraining. Associate members can still attend classes. If considering dropping membership, talk to Megan before deciding since we would prefer a member to continue as an Associate rather than leave the program.

The standard is 50/50 direct/indirect support in Volunteer Hours. We had 59% direct hours and 41% indirect support hours in 2024. Total project hours are 4240 hours.

There was discussion about putting together a coding guide/legend for volunteer reporting in the directory. Executive meetings are association support. It was noted that the location should be the garden worked on and not "home". Subject and location can be the same.

Outreach Committees

Publicity Team (Margo) A report was submitted. We need photos from the Holiday Greenery event. Jen would like to take a photo of the executive committee at the next meeting.

Social Media Crew (Jen) Paul is working on a branding statement that reflects who we are trying to reach and is reviewing a logo statement that is immediately recognizable. Kat Sullivan and Hope Frank-Niclin joined the Social Media crew. Branding does not mean changing a logo but is a guideline to identify and communicate in a way that has the same feel and look each month. There was discussion about how a person's interaction with the public lasts a long time. The unifying message should be that we are all learning, don't know all the answers, do research and share discovery. The Educational Component is normally consistent.

Educational Outreach Committee (Jen) A meeting was held and conversations were started. Ideas discussed at the meeting were a short video to go with tips of the week and workshops as was opening classes to the public like we did with one class last year.

Holiday Greenery (Shari) The Bow group made more than last year. The Wreath group was smaller and members arrived slowly over 5 hours. Shorter hours would get a concentrated workforce. It was suggested that a reminder message be sent out the week and day before. Another option would be to sign up for text message reminders. It was noted that some members don't use a phone calendar, accept invitations or want to commit. CGMGA Google calendar can be activated but events have not been consistently entered nor do all members use it.

The first year of bow making members brought supplies, then CGMGA funds for wire and supplies were used. We need to purchase more wire but the cost may exceed the \$25 budgeted. Members should continue to look for wire and ribbon throughout the year.

Plant Sale (Jen) Several members attended the meeting. The Zoom screen froze so the online component was cancelled. Sandy Montag is the lead with Sarah Smeby heading the Greenhouse committee. Waters and weeders will remain the same. Eric will instruct on greenhouse operation and Jim Black on cleaning and inspection of the greenhouse. Stiffer plant sale labels will be needed for next year. Christy Bradley will continue to print labels but would like to hand off the project to another member. The Jackson Park banner display has been reserved for the 2025 Plant Sale.

John thanked Jen with a round applause for a great year. Jen will be here another year with Jen Monroe as President Elect.

Members at large are John Stevens, Bill Winfield, Tracy Willet, Shari Bosler. Kaeley Dawson has been asked to replace her. A past president is usually a member at large to help with history.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Minutes were taken by Donna DesRochers.