**Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held via Zoom and In-Person on Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Hood River Extension Office Meeting Room

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

**Attendees:** Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jen Harty, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Kaeley Dawson, Mary Corl, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler, Tracy Willett

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Jennifer Munroe is substituting today and will try to check in at 10:30. Kaeley Dawson, a nominated member at large, was welcomed. Kaeley is part of the group that got our website up and running.

**Secretary Minutes** (Donna) A correction to the minutes adds Mary Corl as attending the last two executive meetings. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (Joanne) Treasurer Reports are now on Google Drive and will be updated monthly. The Balance Sheet looks good and the Budget vs Actual is just about even. A $6000 dollar grant was planned for and spent in budget.

Eric and Shari did an audit for May through September. Eric noted everything looked great and liked the way Joanne set up the audit as a Bank Reconciliation. Eric and Shari were thanked. We should continue doing regular audits throughout the year.

Financials and Treasurers Report stands as read and accepted.

**Coordinators Report** (Megan) There are lots of little things in her report. Mentors will be checking in with trainees soon with a reminder going out in Monday updates starting two weeks before classes start. As in the past we will invite all attendees to come early to the first class for a potluck. New trainees do not need to bring food. We need help with handbook updates and a time has been scheduled.

Mail Chimp now works and showed a 74% open rate. **Remind** App can be put on phones that sends messages through email and text. It is possible to get emails and texts without the app. Contact Megan for id number and password.

**Other Items:**

**Honorarium** (Sandi) Presenters are paid out of Megan’s budget for mileage and hotels. Paying honorarium to local presenters was discussed. It was decided to add a line item in the budget for $300 under Meeting Costs> Training Support> Guest Speakers. A motion was passed to pay $100 to Lore Sampson for the February 12 class.

**Snacks at Class** (Jen) A volunteer is needed to clean up and set up at each class. In the past, it has been hard to find someone to commit to each class. At the first class we will ask for a Snack volunteer to set up coffee, tea and hot water. It is ok for attendees to bring their own snacks and drinks. Jen will bring stickers.

**Credit Cards** (Joanne) The Bank has the paperwork for MG credit cards but they have not yet been approved. Joanne agreed to lend Tracy her MG debit card “for her use only” and will continue to work on getting credit cards.

**OMGA** (Eric) Joy of Gardening (Mini College) planning is moving along. Memorandum of Agreement has stalled in the legal office.

**Outreach Committees:**

**Publicity Team** (Jen) Margo is not here but reported that not much is going on. They had a meeting with Paul on Zoom to work on creating a cohesive message. Jennifer Munroe will be doing more this year as Margo plans to step back.

**Social Media Team** No report.

**Educational Outreach Team** (Jen) Doodle Poll has been set up and is currently asking for ideas for the Hood River and White Salmon libraries classes. Dennis Carlson is scheduled for March 8 and March 11. The libraries like to schedule in advance and looking for presenters to commit to a schedule is ongoing. Saturday classes at the Extension and Fish Garden are in the planning stage.

**Members at Large**. Kaeley Dawson was approved as a new Member at Large joining Shari, Tracy, John and Bill.

**Tool Lending** **Library** (Jen) No activity lately. Anne Gehrig is the current lead. It is time to get a 2024 report on tools checked out and what tools to offer in the future like the 2023 report. The program seems to be going strong. Since Ace Hardware has donated many tools in the past, it was suggested to ask Tum-A-Lum this year for a donation. We will label who donated the tools.

Ideas promoting the Tool Library are: information at classes, fairs, website, radio talk show, a new article in newspapers, a new poster at the Food Bank and plant clinics. Message could be “Try out a Tool before Buying” or “Get a Tool for One Time Use Projects”. It was noted that some tools have safety issues that the libraries enforce. Information about the Tool Library will be added to the 2024 CGMGA History in Review.

**Plant Sale** (Jen) Sandy Montag is working on getting up to speed on the Plant Sale.

**Holiday Wreaths** (Shari) Thank you’s from 3 WAGAP recipients were received. Others expressed how much the wreaths were appreciated.

**Note** Pat Schmuck’s husband passed away recently.

**Front Yard Garden Tour** Yes, we should have a Tour this year. Information about the Tour will be added to the 2024 CGMGA History in Review.

**Information** (Sandi)Getting messages out to members was discussed. It was decided to wait until April to see how the new website works. It is a matter of training people to go there for information and it will take time. Handouts, brochures, emails etc. will have buttons/links directing them to the website. Readability and formatting of the website makes it more accessible. It took a year and half to get the website up and it will only get better with time.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

Minutes were taken by Donna DesRochers.