

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

Held via Zoom and In-Person on Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Hood River Extension Office Meeting Room

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

**Attendees:** Eric Bosler, Shari Bosler, Mary Corl, Margo Dameier, Kaeley Dawson, Jen Harty, Jen Munroe, Sandi Rousseau, John Stevens, Megan Wickersham, Joanne Willis, Bill Winfield.

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

**Treasurer's Report** (Joanne): The up-to-date reports were sent out to the EC. The balance sheet is shifted around a bit due to rolling over a CD and putting \$10K into Umpqua. Now most of our usable money is in one bank. We have \$33K at 4% interest and \$44K at 2.75% interest rates. This increases our yearly income by about \$1400.

**CGMGA Credit Card:** The debit card was cancelled and we have a new credit card. It was decided to add two persons to the card in Jen Harty's and Tracy Willett's names. We will allocate a maximum of \$2500 for each card. Those making purchases are asked to let Joanne know. She will also set up an alert when transactions are made.

**Venmo Account:** After discussion it was decided to set up a Venmo account for the plant sale and swag orders for now through the end of the plant sale. This is partially because Square does not always work well with the poor signal at the greenhouse area. The account will then be cancelled. We will also see if we can use the HRSWCD internet connection during the sale. Joanne will look into a non-profit rate.

**QR Code:** It was agreed to also set this up for paying dues and for the plant sale.

**Zoom Account:** It is agreed by all that CGMGA needs our own Zoom account so Megan does not have to set up every meeting for us on the OSU account. TechSoup offers non-profits rate of \$74.95 per year plus an \$18 administrative fee. It was MSA to open an account..

**Secretary Minutes** (Jen): Minutes were approved as corrected and sent out. Donna's usual email address is not presently working, so use her alternate address if you need to contact her.

**Coordinator's Report** (Megan): Orientation for 21 trainees went well although it had to be on Zoom due to weather. There are some hearing challenged trainees and they will be invited to bring a headset to try with the audio system. Online modules are now open. She plans to cover weather cancellation and classroom protocol tonight.

Committee Model for Projects: Megan commended our chapter for using this approach for the majority of our projects and committees.

Federal Mandate from OSU's Dr Madsen: The Extension is receiving many questions regarding federal moves and the implications for our MG program. Dr Madsen released a long statement to the effect that nothing has changed for now and we will continue to serve Oregonians in all parts of the state. The current version of the MG program is unchanged.

**CGMGA Bylaws Review** (Jen): Jen asked if anyone saw any needed changes in the CGMGA Bylaws, and there is no apparent need for any revisions at this time. There was discussion about Mission/Vision/Values Statements and perhaps we should formulate these. Jen will send out some examples for future discussion. It was suggested that we look at OMGA and OSU Extension examples.

#### **Committees:**

**OMGA Report** (Eric): The Send a Friend to the Joy of Gardening is changing with no raffle and utilizing existing funds to support this. OMGA is being asked to consider how to address MG volunteers who have been dismissed by the University for behavioral issues. OMGA wants OSU to have the ultimate authority in making decisions regarding this.

**Publicity Committee** (Margo): This following report was submitted.

In response to previously identified outreach efforts, a promotional card introducing CGMG services to new homeowners in our service area has been developed by Kat Sulliivan and Hope Frank-Nicklin. This card will be printed and given to Real Estate offices for inclusion in welcome kits.

Katherine Hutter has joined the publicity team and will handle the preparation and distribution of press releases for the Garden Gathering workshop series.

The social media crew is seeking candidates to post events on Facebook, instagram. and Gorgecurrent.com.

As our new season of classes and activities resume, so will our photo and caption campaign. Photojournalists are being sought to assist in this ongoing awareness project.

**Outdoor Learning Center** (Sandi): The area behind the Extension building is being discussed again by interested MGs to work toward an educational area to be available for MG and community classes/functions. Sandi met with a team in December to discuss ideas. The plan now is as follows:

- Solicit ideas for hardscape.
- Have the group come to consensus on what we would like to see; there will be a meeting after ideas are solicited.
- Present the concept and plan ideas to the Executive Committee.
- Either go back to Windswept Designs with ideas for revisions and ask for a revised plan or find someone within our CGMGA group that might have the talent to do this. Our plan would be to keep any revision simple on only the hardscape i.e. not spending too much money on a revision. We don't need assistance from anyone revising the design for what we decide to plant, etc.
- Present the revised plan to the Executive Committee if any changes from our original ideas.
- Get estimates for implementing the hardscape.
- Prepare a budget for the project including hardscape, plantings, irrigation, etc.
- Present the overall concept, implementation plans, and budget to the EC for approval.
- Present the project to CGMGA membership for approval.
- Continue to explore grant opportunities and submit grant applications.
- Get bids for hardscape implementation.

There was discussion about the name and it was agreed to call it the Outdoor Learning Center at the OSU Extension.

**Holiday Greenery Event** (Shari): Shari will be purchasing two more 5 pound spools of wire at Oregon Wire at a cost of about \$100. Since this is over budget, it was MSA for this expenditure.

**Memorial Tree** (Shari): Shari will reconnect with Paul Casal and Don Perry about their interest in helping us design this.

**Website:** Many MG spotlights are posted now with the goal to do one quarterly.

**Educational Outreach Team** (Jen): The schedule will follow the same format as 2024 with two presentations of the same material twice each month from March through October. The tentative schedule is as follows:

March- Seed Starting with Paul and Dennis

April- Drip Irrigation with Onsite irrigation and Dennis

May- Mini workshops at Plant Sale with Jennifer Harty and others

June- Tree Health with Glen Ahrens

July- open

August- Pollinator plants with Anne Gehrig and Sandy Montag

Sept- open

October - Movie maybe the Film " Kiss the Ground" a film on soil health with Woody Harrelson narrating. <https://kissthegroundmovie.com/>

The ed team also discussed the use of current language to address our changing demographics. Topics like sustainable gardens and environments, climate change, food insecurity, pollinator health, etc. can stimulate great discussions. One helpful tool for this could be to utilize the statewide “Master Gardener Program Priorities” language and graphic below.



**Plant Clinics** (Jen): There will be a time change to the plant clinics on Saturdays at the libraries. Instead of 9 am start time we will begin at 10:00 am-1pm to match with the opening of the libraries on Saturday mornings.

We will continue to table at various events throughout the gorge to include: El Grito, Dia De Los Ninos, and Families in the Park.

**CGMGA Quarterly Meeting** (Jen): We are planning a quarterly CGMGA meeting /picnic for July 17th at the Learning Garden. This date works for the Learning Garden team, Megan, and Jennifer H.

**Compassion Committee** (Jen): Jen has not yet found anyone to be the lead on sending cards, flowers, etc. for a life event for our MGs. Richard Larson's mother just died, so Jen will send a card.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes were taken by Sandi Rousseau and Shari Bosler.