

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Several members will be late or absent from the meeting.

Secretary Minutes (Donna) The group discussed the accuracy of AI-generated meeting summaries and transcripts. Minutes were approved.

Assigned Tasks:

Megan & Eric:

- ☐ Continue developing plans for the Seed to Supper program for fall implementation

Megan:

- ☐ Do monthly hours check-in with trainees and inform garden leaders about trainees needing hours support
- ☐ Send out Request for Properties to find a new neighborhood for the September 13th Front Yard Garden Tour
- ☐ Reach out to selection committee members for Master Gardener awards before next executive meeting
- ☐ Create a printout for trainees about tracking and planning their remaining hours through October
- ☐ Check OSU swag inventory for high school student volunteers
- ☐ Make announcement about cleanup requirements at the end of the event
- ☐ Send reminder about plates and utensils to attendees

Eric:

- ☐ Research past recipients of the Growing and Belonging award and report back in May meeting

Jen:

- ☐ Research and provide cost information for upgrading Mailchimp account due to approaching 750 email address limit
- ☐ Post new mission and vision statements on the website
- ☐ Give Joanne the envelope of money from T-shirt sales at the next meeting

Joanne:

- ☐ Coordinate with John to set up credit card account monitoring access
- ☐ Check with Anne and Emily about gardening gloves for high school student volunteers
- ☐ Coordinate pizza delivery at 5:45 PM

Sandi & Margo:

- ☐ Meet with Bill Winfield and Barbara Spezia about the Metal Tree Project

Sandi:

- ☐ Organize snacks and lunch arrangements for high school student volunteers
- ☐ Take a video of the greenhouse plants for trainees and send to Megan

Margo:

- ☐ Discuss with Paul and inform Jen about timing for second Mailchimp email for plant sale

Kaylee:

- ☐ Investigate restaurants' passive fundraising opportunities when she returns

Donna:

- ☐ Write a thank you note to Christie for her Inel volunteers hours reporting that resulted in Benevity donation

Master Gardener Members:

- ☐ Look for potential neighborhoods for the Front Yard Garden Tour while walking/biking around Hood River

Mentors:

- ☐ Sign up for at least one work party to help engage new master gardeners in garden work

Outdoor Learning Project Committee:

- ☐ Proceed with detailed hardscape design within approved \$2,500 budget

Treasurer's Report (Joanne) A credit card issue with the bank that has been resolved, and noted about \$2,000 in recent charges. The treasurer's report was reviewed, and it was noted that more members have paid their dues. Financials and Treasurers Report stands as read and accepted.

Coordinators Report (Megan) Everyone is encouraged to register and attend the volunteer appreciation event with Extension on April 22nd, emphasizing the importance of Master Gardener representation. The need to maintain engagement with trainees after classes end and suggest ways to keep them involved, including work parties and flexible scheduling options were discussed. The group also discussed plans for the Seed to Supper program, potentially moving it to the fall, and the upcoming Front Yard Garden Tour on September 13th. They consider integrating the garden gathering with the tour and discuss the need to identify new neighborhoods for the event.

Garden Tours and Conference Updates The meeting focused on planning for the upcoming garden tours. Megan suggested limiting the number of gardens to 7 or 8 to allow for more time at each location. The group also discussed the possibility of ending the tour at the extension center or the library garden for refreshments. Shari updated the group on the State awards and the silent auction for the Joy of Gardening conference, requesting a \$350 contribution. The International conference was also discussed, with the group noting its virtual format and potential for a broader audience.

State Awards Clarification and Nomination Process

The team discussed the state awards, specifically the Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes awards, and the Growing and Belonging award. They clarified that these are state awards, not chapter-specific, and that they don't need to be included in their policies. The team also discussed the nomination process for these awards, with the understanding that nominations can be submitted to the state level. The team agreed to advertise the Growing and Belonging award as an opportunity for someone to be nominated, but it doesn't need to be included in their policies.

Master Gardener Award and Vision Statements

The team discussed the Master Gardener of the Year award, with a focus on understanding its criteria and potential nominees. They agreed to keep the initial email about the award as it is and to research further before making decisions in May. The team also voted to approve the new mission and vision statements for their organization. In the reports of committees, Margo and her team were praised for their publicity efforts, and a question was raised about when to send a second email to past plant sale attendees. Shari reported a potential collaboration with Paul Casal for the Metal Tree Project, and the team discussed the possibility of a trip to meet with him.

Hardscape Design and Budget Approval

The committee has finalized a hardscape design for their outdoor learning center and is seeking approval to allocate a budget of \$2,500 for the project. The funds will be used to create more detailed designs and obtain estimates for the work. The committee has also decided to handle the project's budgeting separately from the annual budget allocation. In other news, the committee is organizing a drip irrigation workshop scheduled for this Saturday and the following Tuesday.

Exploring Horticulture Swag for Events

The team discussed the need for more horticulturally oriented swag for their events, such as seed packets or gardening tools. They also considered the cost and practicality of such items. Eric suggested more educational or interest-oriented swag, like rulers or pencils with their logo. The team agreed to explore these options further.

Plant Sale Progress and Fundraising Ideas

The committee discussed the progress of the plant sale, with the kale and chives looking particularly good. They also discussed the new format of disbursement amongst the committees, which was working well. Megan proposed the idea of creating a short video to showcase the progress of the seedlings, which was well-received. Margo suggested the idea of passive fundraising by partnering with local restaurants, which was also well-received. The committee agreed to assign Kaylee the task of investigating this idea once she returns.

Meeting Summary: Intel Payment & Swag Discussion

In the meeting, Joanne reported that they received \$1,450 from Intel through Christy's volunteer hours. The team discussed sending a thank you note to Christie. Donna was tasked with writing a thank you note to Christ. The team also discussed providing swag for a group of 30 high school kids, with the suggestion to check with Anne and Emily first. Lastly, they confirmed pizza delivery for the next meeting and discussed the need for plates and utensils.

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

Minutes were taken by AI and edited by Donna DesRochers