

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held In Person and via Zoom on Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Attendees: Donna DesRochers, Eric Bosler, Jennifer Harty, Jennifer Munroe, Joanne Willis, John Stevens, Kaeley Dawson, Mary Corl, Margo Dameier, Megan Wickersham, Sandi Rousseau, Shari Bosler, Tracy Willett,

Jen called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Introduction: Rachel Minnons, a new extension intern, who will work on the Fish Garden project June 30th to September 5, was introduced. She will focus on soil functionality and public outreach. Rachel shared her background in agriculture, including experience as a farmhand and studies in crop and soil science at Oregon State. The group discussed Rachel's potential to contribute to the Fish Garden despite her limited time. Members introduced themselves, highlighting their roles in the Oregon Master Gardener Association.

Secretary's Minutes: (Donna) The minutes were approved without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: (Joanne) The Treasurer's Report was presented. This year's graduation ceremony will not be held at the Crag Rat Hut but probably will be at Riverside Church or Senior Center. Joanne agreed to review the budget structure and to look at combining the categories of Recognition Ceremony and Awards. T-shirts were purchased using the organization's credit card and a receipt was sent in. The next round of sweatshirts should be ready on Friday. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Coordinators Report (Megan) She purchased a MacBook Pro for the office and will need help setting it up. Joanne offered assistance. Megan also acquired new equipment for the plant clinic, including folding tables, table clothes, educational material, weed eater and ergonomic tools. She noted her landscape budget of \$1,000 for the year was reduced. She asked members to plan to attend the documentary "Kiss the Ground", which focuses on soil health, providing resources and a reading list for participants to learn more.

Garden Tour (Megan) The Garden Tour currently has only 4 applications, 3 in one neighborhood and 1 in another downtown area. Plans to reach out to these applicants to recruit additional neighbors were noted. There's a possibility of cancelling the tour if more applications aren't received.

OMGA (Eric) The upcoming Joy of Gardening Conference was discussed. Registration for dorms and lunches is closed but walk-ins are still accepted. Marianne Brevard was confirmed as a Hood River attendee. There was discussion about obtaining certificates

for grant recipients. Certificates were not included with the recent \$1,000 education grant check. Eric noted the OMGA dismissal policy discussion is still on hold.

Publicity (Margo) She noted that things are moving along. Margo mentioned her upcoming trip to Europe, which may affect her availability for some meetings. Megan will also be going to Europe in August.

Committees

Memorial Project (Shari) The group was updated on the Memorial Project, including potential designs and engraving options. They considered using a pear tree design and debated what information to include on the memorial, such as names and volunteer years. The group agreed to research engraving costs per character to help determine what information can be included on the memorial.

Library Film Screening (Jen H) Plans for an upcoming film screening at the library, Tuesday, 6 pm, will include popcorn and water refreshments. Emphasis on attracting a diverse audience is the goal..

Families in the Park (Jen M) This event will take place on Thursday, August 7. There is a request to have children accompanied by a parent. Music, frisbees, tattoos with a pollinator design and other promotional items will be at the event.

Pollinator Workshop (Joanne) This event will be in August in Hood River and White Salmon.

Chapter Picnic (Jen H) The Chapter Picnic scheduled for the following Thursday, will include a 1-hour volunteer session and nominations for next year's executive positions. We are still looking for a President Elect nominee. Norma needs to step away from her role in the Waterwise Garden, and we are seeking a new volunteer to take over this responsibility. Organizing a 20th anniversary celebration for our chapter was briefly discussed.

Brewery Fundraiser Planning Meeting (Kaeley) The group discussed a weekday evening fundraising event at Ferment Brewery in September or October. A target of raising \$3,000-5,000 was discussed but not agreed upon by the group. Potential uses for the event receipts include funding a summer intern, expanding the herb garden, or supporting Food Bank efforts. The event would involve a percentage of food and drink sales going to the nonprofit. Possible raffle items were discussed. It was decided to focus on community recognition rather than raising funds directly for the Master Gardener program, and no decision was made to do this fundraiser.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 pm.

Minutes taken by AI and edited by Donna DesRochers.

