

Executive _meeting-12/10/25

Quick recap

The meeting began with administrative matters including legislative activities, technical setup, and corrections to previous meeting minutes. The group discussed organizational updates including recruitment efforts, budget concerns, and upcoming events, while also addressing digital accessibility improvements and harvest data analysis. The team reviewed several ongoing projects including the Outdoor Learning Center concrete work, paver installation, and plans for future workshops and gatherings, with discussions about improving member engagement and coordination with local libraries.

Next steps

- Eric: Send out the email with the explanation and template letter regarding the OSU Extension budget cut to all members, after attaching necessary documents and coordinating with Jim.
- Mary: Send the media toolkit to Jen, Paul Now, and James Raker.
- Paul, Jen Peterson, and Kaylee: Attend the January 14th (2:30 PM, Zoom) meeting with Leslie Ray (OMGA) to discuss outreach collaboration.
- Kaylee and CGMGA (or relevant team members): Meet in person with Kat to discuss brand identity and website alignment, including font, color, and accessibility, aiming to schedule before January.
- Megan: Reach out to past and potential mentors for the new Master Gardener trainees.
- Joanne: Move the Sally Holmes rose and pot up the 3 ferns at the Outdoor Learning Center, and pot up any other plants as discussed (planned for tomorrow morning).
- Joanne: Store salvaged plants in pots for others to collect as needed.
- CGMGA: Notify campus personnel and check conference room schedule to avoid parking lot and noise disruption during concrete work at the Outdoor Learning Center, especially noting the 16th is not available for noisy/parking lot work.
- Sandy: Inform concrete contractor about scheduling restrictions (e.g., no parking lot/noise on the 16th) and coordinate with CGMGA for other potential dates.
- CGMGA: Touch base with Brian regarding concrete truck washout procedures at the Outdoor Learning Center.
- Sandy: Continue to collect bids for the decking work and update the group once a decision is made.
- CGMGA: Read "On Gold Hill" and report back to the group regarding possible collaboration with the library's programming, including identifying potential speakers on grain growing or related topics.
- CGMGA and relevant team members: Develop and finalize the 2024 workshop schedule, incorporating expanded focus and new collaborative ideas, with CGMGA to begin work next week.
- Joanne: Pick up the laser printer and CGMGA computer, verify the updated plant sale label template, and return the computer within about a week.
- CGMGA: Send out a reminder to all members to fill out their 2026 registration.

- [CGMGA \(or relevant team member\): Consider and propose solutions for encouraging integration and socialization between new and returning Master Gardeners at meetings, including possible table/seat rotation or pre-class social time.](#)

Summary

Legislative Planning and Technical Setup

The group discussed upcoming legislative activities and technical setup for an event. Nicole provided guidance on messaging, and Kelsey Soltashek drafted a letter to legislators that others could use as a model. The team also addressed technical details for an upcoming meeting, including the installation of a new camera and speakers by Wayne, the AV person from campus.

Team Appreciation and Meeting Updates

The meeting began with technical difficulties regarding audio muting and video settings. CGMGA started the meeting by acknowledging the team's hard work and expressing gratitude for their support during her two-year presidency. She mentioned a recent newspaper write-up and introduced Eric's report updates. The conversation ended with a discussion about corrections to meeting minutes, which Sandy was tasked with addressing.

Correcting Minutes and Mentorship Updates

The meeting focused on correcting minutes from a previous meeting, clarifying that Matt Farmer from Natural Designs was the designer, not John Frazier, and noting that the brand identity was incorrectly described as new. Joanne raised a concern about the AI minutes not capturing who is online, and Anna was noted to take attendance and type her own minutes for comparison. The Treasurer's Report was approved without comments. Megan discussed the departure of WASCO's coordinator and the search for a new one, mentioning the need for mentors for 25 new champions, including five nurses, and the importance of attracting and retaining mentors.

Extension Program Updates and Advocacy

The meeting covered several key updates and discussions. CGMGA shared insights from their recruitment efforts, noting a diverse age range among new trainees and plans for a leadership collective capstone project focused on community educator training. Eric provided updates on Josephine County's re-establishment of extension services and the proposed 7.1% budget cut for OSU's extension programs, urging members to advocate against the cut. The group discussed upcoming events, including a January 14th meeting to improve outreach and collaboration, and plans for the 50th anniversary of the Master Gardener program in Oregon.

Digital Accessibility and Harvest Updates

The group discussed accessibility updates for digital media, including specific guidance on screen readers, photos, and captions. Joanne reported that a free Canva account has been approved for the organization, though it's currently under her personal email; she's working to transfer it to the CGMGA Treasure email. The committee reviewed their food harvest numbers, which showed an increase in space usage with irrigation, though poundage varied due to different types of produce grown. They discussed the need to present harvest data in a more relatable way, potentially by converting pounds to estimated meals or families served, and agreed to gather more specific community impact numbers for future communications.

Outdoor Learning Center Project Update

The group discussed the Outdoor Learning Center project, where Sandi Rousseau reported an overwhelmingly positive vote for the expenditure with only one negative vote. The team selected John Frazier from Stamp the Earth for the concrete work, which will begin next week pending weather conditions, with the first payment of \$15,000 allocated for OSU Foundation funds.

Joanne and a team will move plants including ferns and Kinikanick tomorrow, with Joanne planning to pot up three ferns and potentially save some iris and buckwheat plants for others to take. The concrete work will be done in phases, starting with the area around the shed, and will require a water truck to be parked near the herb garden during pouring days.

Paver Project and Library Events

The group discussed logistics for a paver project, with CGMGA noting that the Cherry Commission meeting on the 16th would be a no-work day due to a large group presence, and work should avoid noise and parking lot disruption. Sandi Rousseau reported that only two bids were received for decking work, with a third bid being sought, and the project would be completed after concrete work in early spring. The team also discussed a successful holiday greenery event where 15 participants made 66 items, and Sherry mentioned coordinating with the new adult services librarian at Hood River Library regarding a book promotion about wheat farming, seeking experts to potentially participate in related workshops.

March Gathering and Workshop Plans

The group discussed plans for their March gathering, considering whether to base it on the book "On Gold Hill" by Jacqueline Moyer, which explores themes of land, family, and colonialism. They agreed that Megan would read the book before making a final decision. The conversation then shifted to ideas for expanding their workshops to reach a broader audience, including incorporating art and creativity. Joanne mentioned she would borrow a laser printer and CGMGA computer to work on plant sale labels. The group also discussed challenges new Master Gardeners face in connecting with existing members and suggested ways to improve mingling and interaction during classes, such as rotating seating or having a social gathering before or after meetings.