

**St. Charles Master Gardener**  
**Steering Committee Minutes (Final)**  
**April 14, 2023**

**Attendees:** Rebecca Poon, Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone, Joe Walker, Eli Isele, Patti Kolek, Donna Lindsey, Marsha Brown

**Call to Order:** Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:06.

**Quorum and Attendance:** Catherine Ebone verified quorum and attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Catherine Ebone—Steering Committee minutes for March 10, 2023, were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebecca Poon—Rebecca gave a statement of financial position as of March 31, 2023. She reported that the cool season plant sale raised \$2,268. There were no big expenses last month.

**Horticultural Specialist:** Eli Esele—Eli reported that Tomato School is being offered by UMSL May 16-17. He also asked MGs to be friendly to Master Naturalists who share the Extension campus.

**Extension:** On April 15, the MG laptop, the Hortline and all other spare/old laptops will be sent to Columbia for updates. When the computers are returned, they need to be checked to see if all functions are operable. There was no report from the Extension.

**501(c)(3):** Marsha Brown reported that the Board of Directors Report is due in August.

**MOMGA:** Donna Lindsey is being nominated for MG of the Year and the Native Garden is being nominated for Garden of the Year.

**Membership:** Sydney Turner, Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkler—New member Meet and Greet will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Trainees and Transfers will be invited by email. Membership, Education, Plant Sale, Demo Gardens and Hortline will make presentations. It was expected to last an hour. There will be no Garden Tour.

**CE and AT:** Bonnie Winkler—The question was raised about what counts as AT. Also, will we continue to allow reading to count as education? A motion was made and approved to create an ad hoc committee to review AT guidelines. Eli will chair the committee.

**Education:** Patti Kolek—Patti said they are still looking for a Speaker's Bureau lead. Dawn Tucker has volunteered to lead a series of classes in January and February. MGs will have a booth at the Plant Expo on May 13.

**Plant Sale, Greenhouse and Hoophouse:** Marsha Brown is having health problems. Hummerts set us up with a new customer number—C0025493

Schedule for Plant Sale activities:

April 21—Prepping for MG plant sale. MGs will be just asked to show up. Big tents need to be set up and anchored to hold them up for a week.

April 22—8:30 coordinators arrive. MG and Extension sale from 9-12.

April 28—Set up for Public Sale- 9 am to early afternoon. Pre-sales of veggies to MGs 5-7 p.m.

April 29—Public Sale from 9-2:30. Volunteers need to sign up on Sign-up Genius. Lunch will be provided for those who work all day. MGs need to park at Brown Road Park.

April 30—11:30 MGs arrive—only need Coordinators and Education team. 12-2 public shopping. 2-3 p.m. cleanup.

**Greenhouse:** Laural Steimel, Nancy Torke--Watering is continuing.

**Hoophouse:** Donna Lindsey—Some of the plants have been moved out of the Hoophouse. Outside plants were deer proofed.

**Communication:** Mary Medina—Monday Morning News items need to be routed through Joe.

**Demo Gardens:** Cindy Platzer—Jennifer Dowling had to withdraw from the Pantry Team. Cindy is trading flats of zinnias and marigolds to the parks in exchange for leaf mulch.

**Farmer's Market:** MGS will be withdrawing from the New Melle Farmers Market. They are starting to charge. St Charles Farmer's Market is May 3.

**Upcoming Speakers:** Val Mertz

April 28—Leslie Bertsch –Safe Handling of Produce from Garden to Table

May 25—No speaker—Garden leads talk about their gardens.

**Old Business**

**T-shirts:** Sydney Turner—82 t-shirt were sold and they will be available before the Plant Sale

**Field Trip:** Prairie Fork Conservation Area—June 3. Contact Maureen Walmsley for details and to sign up.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55

Respectively submitted

Catherine Ebone