

## **St. Charles Master Gardeners**

### **Steering Committee Minutes**

**November 8, 2024**

**Attendees:** Joe Walker, Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Platzer, Beka Davis, Patti Kolek, Donna Lindsey, Eli Isele, Sandra Newsom, Kevin Lynch.

**Call to Order:** Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:09 am.

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

**Secretary's Report:** Catherine Ebone—A motion was made and approved to accept the October 11, 2024 minutes as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebecca Poon—Rebecca was not present but the Balance Account summary for October was given. The Draft budget for 2025 is available for review but the budget will not be finalized until the December meeting.

**MU Horticulturalist Specialist/Coordinator:** Eli Isele—The Level 1 MG in-person class is scheduled for January 16 thru April 24. More sign-ups are needed.

The cost of new badges for interns who complete their initial volunteer requirements; new advanced and new emeritus badges will now be covered by the state. There was some concern over how the badges would look. A sample badge was suggested.

Volunteers were reminded that MGs need to sign the Code of Content each year before they volunteer.

**Extension:** Deana Dothage—The MOU Is now with the president of the Extension.

**501(c)(3):** The newly elected board will be needed to be reported to the state.

**Membership:** Kevin Lynch—A motion was made and approved to grant emeritus status to Vee Clark.

**CE/AT--**Beka Davis said that the CE committee is having conversations about what qualifies as an internal class.

**Education:** Patti Kolek –Patti announced that the “In the Garden” series is set up with speakers and the classes are being advertised. Registration will be coming up in the middle of the month.

**Greenhouse:** Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke—Things are being put back in the greenhouse and relabeled.

**Hoophouse:** Donna Lindsey—Dig n Divide is finished with 793 plants potted.

**Plant Sale:** Donna Lindsey, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Heider—Seeds are being ordered. The Growing under Lights class will be held Nov. 23. First seeding party will be held Dec. 11. Heat will be turned on Jan. 24 in the greenhouse to prepare for seeding flats.

**Communication:** Melanie Elick—A committee needs to be formed to set guidelines for communication.

**Demo Gardens:** Cindy Platzer, Beka Davis—There are two main fall projects: the retaining wall in the cottage garden and repairing the compost bins.

Next year the herb garden will be renovated. Cindy has applied for a grant from the State Extension for this project.

The demo garden would like to redo the pantry beds. Phebe and Beka are reimagining the beds.

The demo garden is also looking at a perimeter fence.

The Lasagna Garden will be taken down and rebuilt as a MG class project next year.

**Farmers Markets:** Pati Kolek--Farmer's markets will start again in May.

**Hortline:** Patti Kolek—Hortline is on Winter call-in schedule. Patti stated hortline was busy at first but has since slowed down.

**Paul Hendrix Award:** Val Mertz—Nominations are being accepted for the Paul Hendrix award which will be announced at the January meeting.

**New Business:** The MOMGA meeting will be held at the Extension March 7. More details are coming.

The Holiday Party will be Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up genius will be set up. A silent auction and game are planned.

A new vice president needs to be recruited.

Next SC meeting will be Dec. 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone

