

St. Charles Master Gardener
Steering committee Minutes (Approved)

1-13-2023

Attendees: Joe Walker, Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone (late), Rebecca Poon. Cindy Platzter, Patti Kolek, Donna Lindsey, Sydney Turner.

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:04. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was a hybrid meeting.

Secretary's Report: Marsha Brown --Steering committee minutes for Nov. 11, 2023 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon reported on the net monthly change for December. Numbers for the end of 2022 were given. Figures were based on a shortened month due to the changeover to QuickBooks Online and the IRS approval of 501-(3)-c status and independence in bookkeeping from the Extension. Reimbursement changes were discussed. No direct invoicing by vendors except in a few preapproved cases will be allowed. Everything needs to be paid for initially by MG volunteers and then submitted for reimbursement. A bank account with Commerce Bank will be set up. Rebecca will collect and pay bills once a month. The procedure for reimbursement was outlined. Rebecca explained the process for budgeting and expenses in the new system.

MU Horticultural Specialist: Eli Isele—Eli is at a conference and was not in attendance. Joe walker reported that the Fall level 1 Class is completed with 15 graduates. It was mentioned that all Extension doors now operate with key fobs and will lock when closed. If you wish for the doors to remain unlocked contact Deana Dothage by text. She can lock and unlock remotely. Just let her know when you are done.

Membership: Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkler, Sydney Turner—Sydney reported that Maureen Walmsley, Robin Wilson and David Wilson have requested and met the requirements for Emeritus Status. A motion was made and approved to grant these individuals Emeritus status. It was also reported that 25 MGs didn't meet the requirement for continued membership. Eli will be the final judge on exceptions. The committee reached out to all these individuals and is meeting with Eli on their status. Letters were sent out to new trainees.

CE and AT: Bonnie Winkler—Bonnie explained advanced training.

Education: Patti Kolek, Cindy Heider—Patti reported that the first speaker event has occurred. Donna Lindsey did a program on milk jug seeding for a local garden club. There have been numerous requests for speakers. Terry Scheer has volunteered to be liaison.

The education committee is working with MU on making the speakers list available on the Extension website. Joe is firming up details. The committee decided that a title and a short description is enough. It was mentioned that we may have to turn some requests down.

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown, Catherine Ebone—Seeding parties have been scheduled and are posted in the newsletter.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel stated she forgot to put the \$400 for fan install in the budget. Rebecca reported it has already been adjusted and no further action is required.

Hoophouse: Donna Lindsey—Donna said she has not seen a budget. Rebecca stated that budgets are still pending due to the changeover to Quicken.

Communication: Mary Medina, Mary Carey— Mary sought approval to post info on Community Agricultural Conference in the MM news. There were no objections. Mary also suggested that the MM news go to monthly instead of weekly with the posting coming out the week of the monthly meeting. Any comments can be sent to Mary.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer—Cindy is still looking for a Pantry Garden lead. Major changes have been in the way the pantry garden will operate. Individual beds will be adopted and when adopted you will be told what to plant. Spring crops will be planted in one day and produce will be taken to the pantry on Wednesdays. Individuals who adopt a bed will be responsible for watering, maintenance and harvesting.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—The Hortline will continue as call-in only through March. Training has not been set-up yet.

Farmers Market: Patti Kolek—Farmers Markets will begin in April and May. We will be participating in St. Charles and New Melle markets.

Speakers: Val Mertz--

January 27—MG annual awards meeting—no speaker

February 23—Mark Hoyle, MO Wildflower Nursery, will speak on saving and growing native seed.

March 23—TBD

April 27--Matt Schindler, CEO of Seed St. Louis, will speak on Empowering Communities to Grow their own Food.

Old Business

Master Gardener T-shirts—Sydney Turner showed a copy of the logo. There are long and short sleeve options which will cost from 14-18 dollars. T-shirts will need to be paid for at the time of order by cash or check. Laura Steimel will help with orders.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04

Respectively submitted.

Catherine Ebone