

St Charles County Master Gardener
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (Final)

Friday, 09 July 2021

Attendees: Joe Walker, Laura Steimel, Rebekah Davis, Rebecca Poon, Cindy Platzer, Libby Wilson, Justin Keay, Jan Carron, Patti Kolek

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM
Beka Davis confirmed Quorum. The Steering Committee met in-person in Room C at the Extension Office.

Secretary's Report: Rebekah Davis- Steering Committee meeting minutes for Friday, 11 June 2021 were approved as written. Rebekah will confirm recorded May/April Plant Sale dates with Marsha Brown.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon- Rebecca reported the net monthly change for June. End of June 2021 cash in bank was identified. Unallocated dollars were shown. Remaining Demo Garden allocation was shown. Revenue, expenses and net income were shown. Rebecca will send the revised Demo Garden budgets to Jan Brown to update the bookkeeping.

MU Horticulturalist Specialist: Justin Keay-

- Update on St. Charles Extension staffing changes, MG Coordinator transfer to Pike County this year: Justin Keay conducted a teleconference with Jodi Squires, the Regional Director for Extension, to explain the situation and allow the SC to ask questions regarding refilling the Horticulture Coordinator position (Justin Keay) and the County Engagement Specialist (Alex Reichert's position). Jodi explained that the CES (County Engagement Specialist) will also have a Horticultural background. Whether the Hort. Coordinator and CES positions will be combined in St. Charles County is still being determined by MU. Jan Brown (County Office Support) will also be retiring in the fall, refilling her position will be the responsibility of the County Extension. Justin mentioned that the hope will be to allow the new Coordinator time to shadow Justin before he leaves the position in November. Justin will write a formal statement on the situation to be released to the MG membership via the Monday Newsletter.
- MG online Level I class status: Justin Keay reported that registration starts in June and the next program begins in August. Anyone who is interested can email Justin, he will forward them to Dr. Trinklein, who is keeping a waiting list for the online classes. He will send an email to them when registration opens.
- MGs on Tik Tok: Alexandra McKenney wants to help promote the Master Gardener program through various projects. One such project is a Tik Tok account. Alexandra explained how Tik Tok works (short video segments) and how it could be used in the Demo Gardens. The group agreed to set a future meeting with Alexandra to discuss how best to utilize this new platform.

Committee Reports-

Membership: Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkeler-
Joe Walker reported that there is still no news on the new database. An hours tracking template has been created to help keep track of hours in the meantime.

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown, Libby Wilson-
Joe Walker reported that the Plant Sale Committee is working on creating budgets for 2022 plant sales. This includes the Hoophouse becoming part of the Plant Sale budgeting process.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke-

Laura Steimel reported post plant-sale cleanup status. Flooring for greenhouse is being investigated, minus vs. gravel. Cleaning the greenhouse will wait until after new flooring is installed.

Communication: Mary Medina, Mary Carey-

YouTube Channel: Zack Blair- Justin Keay will reach out to Zack Blair regarding the YouTube Channel.

MOMGA News: Joe Walker, Waneta Parmenter- Still waiting to hear news on the database.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer, Marsha Brown-

Cindy Platzer updated the group on signage and QR codes status. The main Demo Gardens sign will be reinstalled soon with an attached box for new garden maps and a place for a guestbook, this will be the new "welcome spot" in the Demo Gardens. New Demo Garden maps and flyers are ready for handing out to the public. Cindy will bring some to the next monthly meeting.

Cindy Platzer will begin looking into scheduling garden tours and plans to push more on getting news articles out next spring. The Leads met on June 19th, Cindy provided a short report on topics discussed. Marsha Brown is creating an ADA report with the Safety and Design Committee to share with SC. Cindy Platzer mentioned that Robert Weaver of the Gateway Gardener magazine will be visiting to do an article on the Demo Gardens. The Demo Gardens do not need a release of funds at this time.

Speakers: Val Mertz-

July 22 Meeting planned for Veterans Park on Kisker Road. Val has reserved pavilion #2. Officially ours all day. Social hour 5:00 PM start time 5:30. There is not a designated MG host for this event.

August 26 at Faust park. Start time is 5:00 PM (no social hour). Our business meeting will just be held in the parking lot. People should bring lawn chairs.

Joe Walker will propose meeting in the building again with the Extension Council.

Hort Line: Patti Kolek-

Patti Kolek reported that the HortLine is going well, there are enough volunteers, no office training is being schedule at this time. "Sending Hortline Volunteers through Penn State Plant Health Diagnosis class": Looking for a budget request next year of perhaps \$500 for training and other expenses. A motion was made to set aside this year for refunding Penn State registration for HortLine volunteers a sum of \$300. -Motion was seconded and passed.

Education: Jan Carron-

Jan Carron reported that the Committee's next meeting will be 13 July. They are waiting for approval to host it in-person at the St. Charles Community College. Jan mentioned the group is really small and needs more help planning the Dig-In. Joe Walker suggested the first goal to be coming up with suggestions for class topics. Justin Keay added that the list of topics could be sent to him and he would help think up speakers to present those topics.

Justin Keay made the suggestion to propose MG Interns must serve on a committee their first year as a requirement in the future.

Other status and information reports-

St. Charles Historic Gardens: Terri Scheer-

Joe Walker reported that things are moving along well.

Old Business:

- Boys and Girls Club O'Fallon: Classes are underway. Approx. 18 kids per weekly session.
- Quick review and communication of the long term and short-term goals of MG: Joe Walker provided the Goals document along with the July SC mtg agenda as an email attachment. The Steering Committee scheduled to meet 21 July, 2:00-4:00 PM to discuss and review document.
- St. Charles Farmer's Market: Table was in place on July 3rd. Approx. 25 kids and 100 adult contacts were made. We handed out the Gateway Gardener and talked to them about the MG program. Patti Kolek will talk with Justin Keay about the Lake St. Louis Farmers Market.

New Business:

A possible collaboration is being planned with 4-H in 2022 to teach some gardening skills to kids earning 4-H gardening credits. Tentatively will meet with select 4-H adult leadership to discuss during August SC meeting and have a garden tour.

The group discussed possible produce cleaning station for Pantry garden is being explored. There might be an Issue with the quality of delivered produce and visual appeal to customer. Joe will establish a contact at the food pantry management to further quantify what exactly are the product quality factors.

Joe Walker reported that St Charles County MGs have agreed to be County Fair volunteers to help judge kids' vegetable displays.

Joe Walker mentioned exploring viability of encouraging more MGs to develop a 'show and tell' presentation of their favorite gardens for the public, with potential to turn into a library presentation during the Winter.

It was announced to the SC that Jan Brown is retiring. Potentially planning an Extension Open House.

Cindy Platzer is exploring the possibility of a late summer party/carnival for the MGs, similar to what was done years ago.

Joe Walker reported that several MGs helped judge the St. Louis Post-Dispatch garden photo competition finalists.

Good of the Order:

Investigating other food pantries will be discussed at the next Demo Garden Leads' meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekah Davis