

St. Charles Master Gardeners

Steering Committee Minutes

December 13, 2024

Attendees: Joe Walker, Rebecca Poon, Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Platzer, Patti Kolek, Donna Lindsey, Eli Eisle, Sandra Newsom, Kevin Lynch

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Quorum and Attendance: Catherine Ebone verified Quorum and Attendance.

Secretary's Report: Catherine Ebone—A motion was made and approved to accept the secretary's report for Nov. 8th as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon—Rebecca reported the expenses and income for November. The Financial Position as of Nov. 30 was reported as \$32,091 in checking and \$8,068 dollars in savings.

A motion was made and approved to accept the budget for 2025 with an estimated income of \$22,600 and expenses at \$20,622.

MU Horticulturalist Specialist/Coordinator: Eli Eisle—Eli said 26 people have registered for the in-person class starting on Jan.16. He also said that no manuals are needed this year. Garden leads will be allowed a 5-minute promo at the start of class. A meeting for facilitators will be held Jan.6 at 1 p.m.

Eli also stated that the code of conducts must be signed each year before volunteering.

Extension: Deana Dothage—A draft of the MOU may be available for review soon.

501(c)(3): Names of new board members need to be reported.

Membership: Kevin Lynch—Badge requests will be sent to Eli at the beginning of every month.

A new company may provide a better price on Recognition bricks.

If an intern performs 20 additional hours and the required educational hours in the same year as becoming a MG that year is counted as an active year.

The Membership Committee met on Dec.11 to review the year-end processes. The 2024 Recognition will take place at the February 2025 instead of the January meeting.

CE/AT: Bonnie Winkeler—The committee is defining an internal class.

Education: Patti Kolek—Registration is very low for “In the Garden” classes. They are considering a BOGO promotion and also allowing MGs to take the classes.

A scavenger hunt is being planned by Peggy Hammond and Dawn Tucker. The event would entail an estimated \$200 budget for supplies. Organizers will be responsible for recruiting Master Gardeners to help.

Plant Sale: Donna Lindsey—15 MGs showed up for Milk Jug seeding Dec. 7.

Growers are needed to take home seeded flats. Pansies, onions, thyme and some perennials were seeded Dec 11. First open MG seeding party will be Jan. 4 from 10-3.

Communication: Melanie Elick—New security at Constant Contact and changes to our billing information resulted in a delay of the MMNs but all issues have been resolved.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer, Beka Davis—Work sessions have been discontinued.

Compost bins are being repaired.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—Hortline volunteers are working from home.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz—Several nominations for the Paul Hendrix award have been received and are being processed.

There will be no speakers until March.

Old Business:

Herb Garden Renovation Project: After discussion a motion was made and approved to authorize \$3,548 for the renovation of the herb gardens.

A gatekeeper is needed for communication.

MOMGA will hold its quarterly meeting in St. Peters March 7th.

The steering committee is okay with the concept of a memorial to Marsha Brown paid for by donations.

A motion was made and approved for the idea of creating a memorial bench for Marsha Brown in recognition for her many contributions to the garden.

Donna Lindsey suggested that for the Holiday Party next year, setup begins at 4 pm not 9 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

The next meeting will be January 10th.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone

2025 Approved Budget

December 13, 2024

Steering Committee

2025 Annual Projected Income*	
Plant Sale 4110	\$22,000
Public Education Classes (Speaker Bureau) 4010	\$600
TOTAL Projected Income	\$22,600

2025 Annual Projected Expenses**	
Demo Garden (6100)	\$4,767
Public Education (6200)	\$505
Other Publication Education (6300)	\$150
Program Expenses 6000 (6100, 6200, 6300)	\$5,422
Plant Sale (7100)	\$12,400
Other (7200)	\$0
Fund Raising Expenses 7000 (7100, 7200)	\$12,400
G&A Expenses 8000	\$3,400
TOTAL Projected Expenses	\$21,222

*2025 Projected Income will be realized at the end of April and cover expenses in the later part of 2025 and early 2026

**2025 Projected Expenses will be covered by the funds in the Checking Account until the end of April when new revenue is realized

The Steering Committee approved a budget of \$3,548 on December 13, 2024 for the 2025 Herb Garden Special Renovation Project. This expense is not included in the 2025 Approved Budget (above) and will be drawn from the funds in the Checking Account.