

**St. Charles County Master Gardener  
Steering Committee Minutes (Draft)**

**July 14, 2023**

**Attendees:** Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Platzer, Terri Scheer, Patti Kolek and Nancy Torke

**Call to Order:** Laura Steimel called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

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

**Secretary's Report:** Catherine Ebone—June minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebecca Poon—Rebecca was unable to attend but sent her report July 3. June expenses and revenue were reported. Cash on hand was given. The report was approved.

**MU Horticulturalist Specialist/Coordinator:** Eli Isle—Eli could not attend. The SC needs to schedule time with Eli to lay the groundwork for Level 1 in-person classes in the spring. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to address this issue. It was stated that we can't rely on education for this.

**Extension:** Deana Dothage, Laura Steimel—It has been suggested that MGs develop a prioritized 'wish' list of property infrastructure items in the event additional funding becomes available from the county council in 2024.

Some items that were suggested were adding to the MG sign and addressing the drainage problem at the back of the property.

**MOMGA/State Conference 2026**—It has been decided that the MOMGA state conference in 2026 will be held in the eastern part of the state. St. Charles has been asked to host the conference. The idea was discussed, and several questions were raised such as how much money it would cost and what we would have to do. The SC tabled the discussion for now and suggested that general membership be polled to see how many were in favor of this and their level of commitment.

**Membership Committee:** Nothing to report.

**CE and AT:** Bonnie Winkler—A question was raised as to whether the Bee presentation at the las meeting met the requirements for AT. No answer was provided. The CE/AT list was updated in the Monday Morning News.

**Education Committee:** Patti Kolek—A series of winter classes to be held Jan. 27; Feb. 24 and March 23 are being planned. Dawn Tucker is heading up this project. They are currently scheduled in C room. They will be using speakers from the Speakers Bureau.

A flyer is being developed to advertise the Speakers Bureau.

A suggestion was made that the MGs buy a projector for the Speakers Bureau to make it easier when speakers travel to different locations. The projector would be kept at the hortline desk. It was estimated that the projector would cost around \$600 plus tax. Chuck Bauer will seek bids.

A budget for such expenses as Phoebe's cooking class was suggested and whether it falls under education or demo garden.

**Greenhouse:** Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke—Fans in the greenhouse will be cleaned in September or October.

**Demo Garden:** Cindy Platzer—From the Ground Up project has gotten underway. Cindy said 16 people have signed. In this project the Foundations beds will be reimaged. Cindy mentioned that nothing is being stored back by the shed. Arrangements are being made to reorganize the shed.

Cindy announced the spring tours were a success and plans are being made for fall tours. Fall projects include the tool shed and installing the award bricks.

**Hortline:** Patti Kolek--Hortline is going well. It's hit or miss.

**Upcoming Speakers and meetings:**

July 27--Matt Schindler, CEO of Seed St. Louis—Empowering communities to Grow their own Food.

**New Business:** The need for a budget committee was discussed. It would allow for the creation of an operating budget with education a priority. It will allow for budgeting for wants and needs and setting up priorities such as maintenance, plant sale and savings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53.