

Master Gardeners of Clark County
General Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2024

The January 10, 2024 meeting was called to order at the Extension office by Jill Pfister, President-Elect, at 5:30 PM with members present and others online. President-Elect Jill Pfister explained that President Christi Lockhart was unable to join us and she was filling in for Christi. A motion to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting was made by Marianne Ober and seconded by Gary Watson, and as there were no objections, the minutes were approved as published. Member Mark Finnegan reminded everyone that there was a silent auction in the next room where Linda McCann was selling handmade knitted items to raise money for the Master Gardeners of Clark County.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2023

Treasurer George Simons reported:

Beginning Cash Balance for November 1, 2023 was \$8,553.74. November Revenue was \$5,640.04. Disbursements were \$5,006.00 for an Ending Cash Balance on November 30, 2023 of \$2,292.72.

Beginning Cash Balance for December 1, 2023 was \$2,292.72. Revenue was \$7,475.32 and Expenses were \$4,240.18. The ending balance for December was \$5,527.92. Designated Cash for the year end was \$48,674.08. The Annual Treasurer's Report for 2023 will be on the website. The Treasurer's report will be placed on file for audit.

George reported that the old General Fund account at Merchant Bank known as #254 is now defunct and is now with Ed Jones. \$12,000 of the Merchant Money Market was deposited to meet expenses. \$5,000 was deposited to Ed Jones in Money Market and Bonds. There is one outstanding check for \$54.

George reminded us that dues of \$30 per Master Gardener are due now and we need to recertify. If dues are not paid by the end of February, you will not be covered by our insurance. Kim Bachman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Allison Volk seconded. The motion was approved.

Pam Bennett Report

The irrigation project for all of the beds has started. Payment comes out of Master Gardener funds. There are four phases. Total cost is \$37,000.

GAP (Good Ag Practices) certification is required by OSU for anyone who grows, donates or sells produce. Master Gardeners will need one hour of training for the certification. This training will be added to the intern training manual. For employees, training takes three hours. In the future there will also be video training options. Fran Davidson asked if this requirement included honey and Pam said it did not. For now, non-Master Gardener volunteers should be monitored closely by Master Gardeners to be sure they are conforming to GAP.

By February 1 Sales Force will add a Chat feature. We will be able to create groups and do messaging from the Chat. We will need to set up preferences in Sale Force that will notify us when we have new Chats. There will also be an area where we can set up folders to store newsletters and other documents. Sales Force will now be used by Extension for reports and will be a great database for information.

Open Position. Two people were interviewed. The person who was chosen has an interest in local food and community gardens. This person must now go through the OSU approval process. Something should happen by mid February.

Ecuador trips. Two groups will be leaving for Ecuador, one in a week and one the following week. People have expressed concern about safety in Ecuador, given recent events. Tandana Foundation is monitoring the situation and is confident that people will be safe.

Pam will be having gallbladder surgery February 9th.

Committee Reports

Quilt Sub-Committee: Beth Staas and Mary Ellen Martin displayed the beautiful quilt that will be raffled at Jubilee. They will be selling raffle tickets at every available event between now and then.

Garden of Eatin'

Teresa Magill reported that a third chair has been added to the committee: Gigi Wise. On January 19 from 9 am to 11 am the committee will have a planning and seed selecting meeting for the 2024 garden.

Rotary Raised Beds

Rita Lane reported that a new committee is forming to take care of the Rotary Raised Beds that were planted in 2015 and are located near the playground. Rotary has requested that the Master Gardeners design and maintain these beds. They will cover expenses and make a donation to the Master Gardeners. The first planning meeting with Bonita Heeg, Rotary Representative, will take place in the OSUE large conference room on Wednesday, January 17 at 1:30 pm. The beds will be designed to appeal to children and children with disabilities. The four beds are waist high and 4 ft x 8 ft. They are great for people with mobility issues.

Docent Committee

Connie Mitchell told us that the Docent Committee now has 3 chairs: Linda Asebrook, Marianne Ober and Connie Mitchell. They will be available for garden tours from May through September. A new calendar will be placed on the website. Docent training will be in March for anyone interested. Connie also mentioned that the revised MGV Handbook is almost completed. New Interns will have the 1st copy. She thanked the entire committee for their perseverance.

Perennial Committee

Sandy Forstrom reported on the 2024 plans for the Perennial Committee. They include:

Projects:

1. Clubhouse Alcoves- Brick edgers, add weed block or cardboard and put river rock in the alcove beds. (There should be some extra brick and river rock in the Barn area)
2. Making Hypertufa pots for the Clubhouse steps by the Kitchen and Covered Patio area). We will be holding a class on how to make the Hypertufa pots. More info below on the class.
3. Adding Zinnia seeds and Coneflowers to the River of Daffodils for Fall interest.
4. Ordering additional pot feet (10) to the pots on the Steps to nowhere.

Education Classes:

1. Hypertufa Class - Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - 9-12 pm or 12-3 pm. Barn Area
2. Gardening with Children - Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 10-12 pm- Barn Area.
3. Meet me in the Park - Designing for the WOW factor.- Thursday, June 20th 2024

Field Trips

1. Amherst - May 7, 2024
2. Inniswood - September 24
3. Westcott House - ?
4. Castle Noel -A Christmas overnight trip - December ?

Monthly Meeting and Workdays:

1. We will be having a quick meeting on the 2nd Tuesday workday of the month.
 2. Our work days will be the 1st Tuesday and the last Tuesday of the month.
 3. The times will be determined on the weather, normally 8 am - 10 am or 9 am - 11 pm.
- Having more educational and fun Field Trips and get together.

Plant Sale Committee

Reminder: The first meeting for the Plant Sale Committee is Tuesday, January 16 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the large conference room at the Extension Office.

Old Business

2024 Budget

We voted on the 2024 budget. George reminded us that everyone received a copy of the budget and a report of incoming expenses could be found on the website. Everyone voted “aye” for the budget and there were no “nays”.

Policy and Procedure Manual

New Trainees and the Board of Trustees will receive a hard copy of the Policy and Procedure Manual. There will be a half dozen copies at the extension office.

Member Survey

Linda Asebrook reported on the survey results from the survey handed out at the November 8, 2023 meeting. Results are on the website and follow these minutes.

New Intern Class

Jill Pfister reported that this is the last call for new interns. Fifteen people have interviewed for the program. A sign-up sheet for new intern mentors was passed around the meeting.

New Business

Charlie Miller will be calling committee chairs to schedule them for committee introductions for the new class. Jill Pfister reminded everyone to get recertified. A motion was introduced to vote on approval of spending \$37,279 on the irrigation system. The motion was approved.

Good of Order

Tom Davidson reported that 18 people are signed up for the bee class on January 12 and 13. Fran mentioned that they are looking for new outlets to sell their honey and Pam Bennett suggested the Eclipse Event on April 8, 2024.

Mark Finnegan reported that 80% of the knitwear Linda McCann was selling was bid on. Jill Pfister reminded everyone to Read Blades & Blooms for timely information on what is going on with Master Gardeners of Clark County.

As there was no further business Gary Watson moved to end the meeting and Joyce Watson seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Miller,
Recording Secretary

Master Gardener Survey Results

Surveys Received 48

Responses to Question 1:

1-5 years as a Master Gardener 19 people
5-10 years as a Master Gardener 7 people
10+ years as a Master Gardener 22 people

Responses to Question 2. Are you satisfied we are meeting our mission?

Yes 39 No 2 Maybe 2

Responses to Question 3. Do you read Blades & Blooms and the Minutes of the General Mtgs?

Always 39 Sometimes 11

Responses to Question 4. What continuing education events do you prefer?

Gardening Practices 28
Greenhouse Practices 6
Landscape Design 28

Responses to Question 5. What social events are you likely to attend?

Party in the Park 15
Field Trips 22
Member Garden Tour 31
Potluck 19

Other written responses:

Need Committee chairs for new gardens
Need to budget for fun items for membership
#2 for the most part
#2 most of the time
#2 Our mission needs to be better understood
#3 Can't find
#4 Starting Plants