

St. Charles Master Gardeners

Steering Committee Minutes

August 8, 2024

Attendees: Joe Walker, Rebecca Poon, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Platzter, Patti Kolek, Donna Lindsey, Eli Eisle, Kevin Lynch

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Quorum and Attendance: Catherine Ebone verified quorum and attendance.

Secretary's Report: Catherine Ebone—A motion was made and approved to accept the July 12, 2024 minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon—A motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's report as submitted. Rebecca will transfer \$3,000 dollars to the savings account as previously decided. Rebecca and Joe will talk to Commerce Bank about other investment options to earn a better rate on the savings account.

MU Horticulturalist specialist/Coordinator: Eli Eisle—A in-person Master Gardener class will be held in mid-January next year with the same format. Joe suggested initial badge expenses come out of the cost of the class. Eli said he would look into it.

Extension: Deana Dothage—An Extension Expo will be held Oct. 10. MGs will have a table and offer garden tours.

As noted in the newsletter do not try to fix Extension equipment. If something is broken let Deana know.

MU is offering alternative fall breaks weekends in November. If you can think of a project, contact the steering committee.

501(c)(3): Agent paperwork for the Missouri corporation will need to be updated to replace Marsha as the agent of record.

Membership: Kevin Lynch, Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkeler—Another person is needed to help Kevin on the Membership committee. Donna asked for guidelines on reporting hours for the state convention. What part counts as volunteer hours?

CE/AT: Bonnie Winkeler—There is no more sliding scale for CE hours. Six hours of CE classes are required every year from every MG.

Education: Patti Kolek—Public Classes are being planned for January, February and March.

Plant Sale: A meeting will be held Sept.5 to iron out more details regarding the plant sale.

Communication: The committee is looking for guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of the communications committee. Right now, Joe is maintaining the website, Melanie Elick is doing Monday Morning News and Dawn Tucker is posting things on Facebook. A meeting is planned for September.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer—The bridge between the perennial and native garden needs to be replaced.

Jim Stellern and Karen Graves have taken over the Arboretum as co-leads. They have decided to not do any more boardwalks. Instead, they are doing borders around berms. They are planning to take the fruit tree class.

The cottage garden is planning to rebuild the other half of the path border. A donation of half of the cinder blocks and Menards money should cover half of the cost.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—The Hortline has had 50 contacts this month.

Farmers Markets: Patti Kolek—The New Melle Farmers Market is slow. The St. Charles Farmers Market is going really well. There is an issue with attaching our label to seeds we give out. The Extension will make the decision.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz—The August speaker is Carrie Coyne. She will speak on “Growing the Horticulture Industry Workforce>”

New Business:

Marsha’s Celebration of Life will be Sept. 15 with family from 12-2 p.m. and MGs from 2-4 p.m. Her husband Bob will provide the meat with MGs providing side dishes. A power point will be prepared.

Recruitment:

We need to recruit for Steering Committee positions, Communication and Membership positions. Patti will contact Sandra Hershey Johnson about secretary position

The next SC meeting is Sept 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone