

**St Charles Master Gardener
Steering Committee Minutes**

September 8, 2023

Attendees: Joe Walker, Laura Steimel, Cindy Platzer, Patti Kolek. Eli Eisle, Catherine Ebone, Marsha Brown, Donna Lindsey, and Sydney Turner.

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Quorum and Attendance: Catherine Ebone verified quorum and attendance.

Secretary's Report: Catherine Ebone—Steering committee minutes for August 2023 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon—Cash on hand was reported. Moving additional funds to savings was discussed. An anonymous donation of \$500 for the arboretum was reported. The request for a credit card was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report.

MU Horticulturalist/ Coordinator: Eli Eisle—Eli said that plans for in-person MG core training are progressing. He asked for MG volunteers to help as facilitators and teachers. A core training meeting will be held Sept.27.

He said that Master Naturalist training started last night (Sept. 27). There are 250 people still on the waiting list.

He announced that the MOMGA mini conference will be held Oct. 14-15 in Columbia.

MU Extension: The MU extension office has a new copier and there are different codes to enter. MG is 7456; Plant Sale is 7458; and Hortline is 7457. Please ask for assistance in entering codes. Also, the soda machine is officially going away. The ice maker is up and running.

501 (c)(3): Marsha Brown—Marsha stated a budget needs to be developed.

MOMGA Conference: An exploratory team has been formed to investigate hosting the 2026 MOMGA conference. The first meeting has not been set. They are gathering information from other chapters that have recently hosted the conference.

Membership Committee: Sydney Turner. Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkler—Online trainees will be set up into the logging system when they notify membership that they are ready to volunteer. Membership does not automatically set up accounts. There are 12 trainees currently in the online class; six have responded to the welcome letter. Questions about membership received on the Hortline will be referred to membership.

CE and AT: Bonnie Winkler—It was suggested that a checklist for determining whether a course qualifies for AT be created. Input from Eli on what qualifications should be included was suggested. Joe will reach out to Bonnie about the status of courses at the mini conference.

Education: Patti Kolek—The committee is working on In the Garden classes. Patti said that someone is still needed to help Joe in the tool maintenance class. A planning meeting will be held before the next general meeting.

13 MGs helped with the Boys and Girls Club. The program has been completed but vegetables are still being harvested for the food pantry. 24 kids participated over the 9-week program

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown, Catherine Ebone—Marsha has announced that a new position has been created for the Plant Sale. Peggy Hammond will serve as Plant Sale Liaison coordinator. In that position Peggy will coordinate the needs of the demo gardens for the plant sale and oversee the planting of these seeds and transplants. This position was created to help reduce seed and shipping costs for the demo gardens.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke—A hard cleaning of the Greenhouse will take place Oct.21. The shade cloth will be taken down and extra grommets will be added. Joe has volunteered to clean the fans. Shed cleaning will take place on Oct 25. Laura will price a new door for the greenhouse.

Hoophouse: Donna Lindsey—Dig and Divide will start next Saturday. Milk jug seeding will be Dec. 9th. A new door will also be installed..

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer—Cindy stated that the quarterly leads meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9th. The demo gardens have a number of fall projects planned. Demo garden procedures are going to be rewritten. 16 fall tours are planned. The demo gardens are trying to reduce the amount of money spent. The footprint of The Ground Up project is going to be a little larger than previously planned and approval is being sought from the Extension.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—The in-house presence of the Hotline will end in mid-October. After that volunteers will answer questions from home. Questions have been a mixed bag.

Farmers Market: Patti Kolek—The Autumn Festival will be held Oct. 21st at New Melle. Patti said the biggest plus to being at the farmers markets is getting the word out about master gardening and the extension.

Upcoming Speakers: Micha Kornblum will speak on frontier medicine at the September 28th general meeting.

The field trip to Maryland Heights has been postponed until next year.

The speaker for Oct. 16 is to be determined.

Paul Hendricks award: Nominations for the Paul Hendricks Award need to be sent to Valerie Mertz by the end of October.

The Holiday Christmas party is Dec. 1.

New Business: Joe will email Deanna about a new flag. The current one is faded and tattered.

The next meeting will be Oct. 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone