

St. Charles Master Gardeners

Steering Committee Minutes

May 17, 2024

Attendees: Joe Walker, Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Platzter, Patti Kolek, Marsha Brown, Donna Lindsey.

Call to Order: Joe Walker—Joe called the meeting to order at 9:05. Joe announced that he won't be at the General meeting. Marsha Brown will chair the meeting with Patti Kolek as backup.

Quorum and Attendance: Catherine Ebone verified quorum and attendance.

Secretary's Report: Catherine Ebone— Steering committee minutes for April 12 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon—The Extension is doing an audit. Rebecca submitted the information requested. Figures for April 2024 were submitted. The beginning balance was \$17,522, with revenue of \$24,873, expenses of \$2,173 and an ending balance of \$40,222. A motion was made and approved to accept the financial report as submitted.

Membership: Kevin Lynch, Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkeler—Kevin and Waneta have met a couple of times. 27 of the 30 enrolled in Spring in-person class have completed all quizzes and have graduated. Of those 27, 10 have already completed MG certification. Badges and certificates have been ordered.

There are no updates on class completion of the 6 online registrants.

Other new interns are Eugenia Alexander, a transfer from Illinois and Barbara Orzel who was approved by Eli to rejoin. She completed her class in 2015. They have a year to complete their 30 hours.

Mary Coyle has joined our chapter as certified with dual enrollment with STL MG chapter.

The local project reporting category has been renamed. It is now Offsite Gardens—put name in description.

CE/AT: Bonnie Winkeler—Three people have agreed to help Bonnie on this committee: Jim Stellern, Maureen Wamsly, and Rebekah Davis. Marsha Brown is working with this team.

Membership: Patti Kolek—It has been suggested that meetings be speeded up.

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown—Marsha reported that we made \$27,230 on the plant sales which is more than 50% over expenses.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel--There are lots of pots and trays that need cleaning. Signs are up for clean and dirty pots. Laura went through all the pots and will recycle pots at St. Charles recycling.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer—Garden tours have not been popular this year. One private tour has been scheduled. “From the Garden Up” is wrapping up. Leaf mulch and mulch is needed. Joe will follow up.

The leads meeting will be on June 5 in the evening. Cindy is looking for someone to replace her next year.

Phebe is adding rhubarb to the pantry garden.

The code on the arboretum lock is different from other locks on the property. It will be locked during fruiting season. A pluot and 2 columnal apple trees have been ordered. Joe thanked Marsha Brown and her team for pruning the Boys and Girls orchard.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—Hortline calls are increasing. Hortline training is scheduled for May 24. The Plant Expo is May 18.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz

May 23—Bill Rose, Weedman Lawn Service Turf Expert, will talk on lawns.

Old Business:

The Nomination of Beka Davis for MOMGA 2024 Master Gardener of the Year has been sent and received by MOMGA.

Melanie Elick needs to fill out a reimbursement form for QR codes.

New Business:

A motion was made and approved to require 6 hours of education each year and eliminate the sliding scale pending the approval of the Extension Coordinator.

CE/AT procedures are being rewritten.

Ways to increase attendance at General Meetings were discussed.

The T-shirt store is open.

A complaint, suggestions policy was discussed.

Patti Kolek said that Maureen Walmsly wants to make a presentation at the next meeting.

Cindy Platzer asked that donation money be released. A motion was made and approved to transfer the \$475 and \$20 donations to the budget.

A motion was made and approved to accept the Expense Reimbursement, Expense Payments and Income Collection Policies and Procedures.

The Boys and Girls Club summer program planning is underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

The next meeting will be June 14.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone