

St. Charles Master Gardeners

Steering Committee Minutes

January 12, 2024

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

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

Quorum and Attendance: Catherine Ebone verified quorum and attendance.

Secretary's Report: Steering Committee minutes for December 2023 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon was not in attendance. Joe Walker presented the financial report on her behalf. Expenses and income for December 2023 were given. A motion was made and approved to accept the report. Credit card usage on Amazon was discussed.

MU Horticultural Specialist/Coordinator: Eli Isle reported that registration for the in-person Master Gardener class is closed with 39 persons registered. A facilitator's orientation meeting was held on January 11. Classes will start on January 18. Eli announced that the Extension is advertising for a second specialist for the county.

Extension: Deanna Dothage—Deanna has requested a quote on insurance for the greenhouse. The Christmas Card Signing Project for Soldiers will take place Feb. 25, March 24, and April 28 from 1-4 at the Extension office. Leftover Christmas cards are being sought.

501 c 3: Marsha Brown—In the case of donations, the Steering Committee has the ultimate decision on where the money goes.

MOMGA: Based on feedback from membership and recommendations of the exploratory committee, the steering committee has informed state leadership that they will not be hosting the 2026 MOMGA state convention.

Membership Committee: Sydney Turner, Waneta Parmenter, Bonnie Winkler—A MG certificate and badge has been issued for Abigail Howard. 11 online core training graduates are being processed. Tess Martin would like to volunteer some of her hours in Franklin County. Eli and the Franklin County MG group are discussing.

Four members have requested Emeritus status: Amanda Templer, Sharon Hedges, Cathy Linders and Waneta Parmenter. The requests were approved by the Steering Committee. Awards will be presented at the January meeting. Eli has been asked to help hand out awards. Four bricks have been earned. Sydney reported that membership has enough pins for the year. Rebecca Davis has applied for her Advanced Training badge. The SC approved the request.

CE and AT: Bonnie Winkler—CE and AT lists are being updated.

Education Committee: Patti Kolek—In the Garden has 23 registered for the January class.

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown, Catherine Ebone—First seeding party went well. Next seeding party is Feb.3.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke—The greenhouse will open Feb.3. Greenhouse training will be provided at the January general meeting. The new doors on the greenhouse have been installed.

Hoophouse: Donna Lindsey—Everything is covered.

DemoGarden: Cindy Platzer—This winter the From the Garden Up participants are researching plants. The demo garden is going back to scrounging and will be putting out a wish list. The garden is looking for specific items. Anything not on the list needs to go through Cindy.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—Last year the Hortline had 400 contacts. A training session will be held in late March. Experienced MGs are being sought.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz—A trip to the Hays House is being considered for the May meeting. It will have to be an early meeting because we must be done by 5 pm. Val has several leads on speakers.

Paul Hendrix Award: The Paul Hendrix award will be presented at the January General meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone