

St Charles Master Gardeners

Steering Committee Minutes

December 8, 2023

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

Call to Order: Joe Walker called the meeting to order at 9:01.

Quorum and Attendance: Catherine Ebone verified quorum and attendance.

Secretary's Report: Catherine Ebone—Secretary's report for November 2023 was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon—Funds remaining at the end of November were reported. The budget for 2024 was presented for review. A motion was made and approved to accept the budget as submitted. The arboretum was the biggest expense. Donations for specific items were discussed.

MU Horticulturalist/Coordinator: Eli Eisle—Eli reported that 32 people have signed up for in-person core MG training in 2024. There will be a planning meeting Dec.11 to review facilitator checklist. A facilitator orientation meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11. The first class is Jan. 18.

Extension: Deanna Dothage—Deanna was not in attendance. A Christmas card signing is scheduled for soldiers serving overseas. The cards will be distributed in January.

MOMGA/State Conference 2026: Results of the straw poll were given on whether we should host the 2026 MOMGA convention. Based on those results and the recommendation from the exploratory committee, a motion was made and approved that we do not host the 2026 MOMGA convention.

Membership: Sidney Turner—Sydney encouraged members to enter their hours. She said that 30 active members have failed to enter any hours this year.

CE & AT: Bonnie Winkler—Bonnie is still providing updates for CE & AT but is looking for help.

Education: Patti Kolek—Information on the “In the Garden” series of classes has been released on the MU digital network. Three people have signed up so far. Patti is looking to put it on Facebook and possibly buy an ad. Information on the Speakers Bureau is being spread by word of mouth and Facebook.

Plant Sale: Marsha Brown, Catherine Ebone—We have gotten almost all our seeds. By coordinating seed requests from garden leads, we have cut down a lot on shipping costs.

Hummert's order has come in.

Greenhouse: Laura Steimel, Nancy Torke—The French Door connector kit has arrived. The doors can now be installed.

Hoophouse: Donna Lindsey—The plastic has been installed on the Hoophouse. The new door has been installed and frost covers have been placed over 1,000 pots. Milk Jug seeding is scheduled for Dec.9th.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer—The quarterly leads meeting was held. Over three pages of accomplishments were listed for this year. The garden leads were frugal with their budgets. Four main projects are planned for next year: the pantry beds, the arboretum, From the Ground Up project and the wall in the Cottage Garden. The Demo Garden is looking for donations to help cut costs. The Fleur de Lis garden club has donated \$475 and a projector to the group. Cindy is trying to build in some fun stuff for next year.

Hortline: Patti Kolek--Training for hortline is planned for next year. MGs with a couple of years' experience are preferred.

Farmer's Market: Patti Kolek—There is nothing new. Farmers Markets will resume in the spring.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz—There will be no speaker for January due to awards and pin presentations. A short presentation on greenhouse procedures was discussed. Laura will get with Val on this. The Greenhouse will open Feb. 3.

Val has several leads on speakers. One is a trip to the Hays Home in Matson Hill in maybe May or June. An early start may be needed for this trip.

New Business: A projector has been donated to the chapter.

Next meeting will be Jan. 12

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09.

Respectively submitted

Catherine Ebone

