

St. Charles Master Gardeners

Steering Committee Minutes

Oct.11, 2024

Attendees: Joe Walker, Laura Steimel, Catherine Ebone, Cindy Platzter, Patti Kolek, Donna Lindsey, Kevin Lynch, Rebecca Davis, Bonnie Winkeler

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 secretary's report for Sept.13, 2024 as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Poon—Rebecca was not in attendance. Rebecca asked that budgets be submitted by October 31 as she will be travelling overseas during most of November. Guidelines for the budget were offered. Needs, wants need to identified. Karen Graves will be filling in for Rebecca in her absence.

MU horticultural Specialist/ Coordinator: Eli Isele—A link to Spring Core training is on the MG website. Class will run from Jan.16 through April 24, 2025 from 9 am to noon.

Eli passed on the roster for the fall core training class. There are 6 trainees from St. Charles County. A welcome letter and interest survey is being prepared.

Extension: Deana Dothage—Deana and Eli are reviewing the draft MOU produced by Marsha Brown, Fay Aubuchon and Mary Medina.

Membership: Kevin Lynch—Nothing to report.

CE/AT: Bonnie Winkeler—Bonnie outlined how to report convention hours as follows:

The 2 AT courses are counted as AT.

The garden tours count as CE.

The St. Joseph History Tour; time at the conference and drive time are counted as volunteer time. There are no CE hrs. for the Loess tour.

15 MGs attended the conference. New people attending the conference are cautioned to be careful when reporting hours.

More information will be in the Monday Morning News.

Education: Patti Kolek—"In the Garden" classes are set.

A scavenger hunt is planned for May or June.

Plant Sale: Donna Lindsey—Next Wednesday everything in the greenhouse will be bleached and the greenhouse will be cleaned.

The propagation garden has planted over 400 pots for the plant sale.

On Nov. 23, a class will be offered for MGs on How to Grow Plants under Lights.

Milk Jug seeding will take place the first Saturday in December.

Some of the cool season plants will be started in the greenhouse with the heat being turned on the end of January.

Communication: Guidelines are being sought for communications. A separate meeting may be needed.

Demo Gardens: Cindy Platzer—Beka has agreed to be co-lead for the demo gardens.

There will be a leads meeting Nov.2. Budgets are due at that time.

The Fruit arboretum is almost done. They have received another donation.

Options for redoing the herb gardens are being explored.

The garden is getting rid of the tomato cages.

Hortline: Patti Kolek—Today is the last day for in-person hotline. They will be switching to winter call ins.

Upcoming Speakers: Val Mertz--

Oct.24--Gabriel Griffiths, MG in training, will speak about her experience in Peru with diversity of types of corn, potatoes and other crops. In addition, a scientist with Mobot's Kernels of History project will speak.

New Business:

The holiday party will be Dec.6. Patti will reserve room. Donna Lindsey will set up Sign-up Genius. Cindy Platzer will do the Silent Auction and Pheobe will be asked to do the game.

Rebecca Poon proposed a memorial bench for Marsha. She outlined costs and indicated a number of people wanted to contribute. She anticipated that donations would cover the cost.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be Nov.8.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

Respectively submitted,

Catherine Ebone, MG secretary