



# MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 08, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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**Attendees:** Jim Olson, Carrie Hill, T.J. Johnson, Trish Boor, Richelle Godwin, Suzi O'Byrne, Randi Smith, Bruce Williams, Amy Lee, Tiffany Ng, Bruce Caredio

**Absent:** Valentina Barei, Steve Hiday, Mary Watts (ex-officio), John Sykes, Wendy Jordan

**Guests:** Marty Byrne, Gary Scheider, Brenda S.

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### **Call to Order (Jim):**

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In Valentina's absence, Amy Lee volunteered to cover Secretary responsibilities for this meeting. January meeting minutes were approved.

### **Plant Sale Update (Gary S):**

Gary reported that things coming along nicely. Gary demo'd the homepage for the plant store. New locations this year are Shorewood High School and Soos Creek, to be held on the weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Bellevue Ornamentals (name will change) will to be hosted by Gary S together with 6 vendors on May 8. Bellevue Demo Garden will occur on the weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have boxes, drop them off at Bellevue Demo Garden. Check with Wendy Faucet for details.

Gary announced that this year will be the last year that he will host the plant sale. He is willing to mentor his replacement. Everyone thanked Gary.

### **Communication Update (Marty B.)**

Marty Byrne reported that the Virtual Clinics promotional launch happened on Tuesday night to 37 online blogs, newspapers, and newsletters. The response rate has been 35%, "which is not great, but it is something". An email also went out to Master Gardeners. 350 people (61%) opened it. A reminder will be sent out to the online media contacts every month, and she will send out periodic updates to MGs as well. These will be long and short form versions (e.g. the short form will be like a tweet) starting in May.

### **Program Update (Jim)**

Jim delivered the update in Mary's absence.

The Garden Leadership team held a Zoom meeting last month. The Program Leadership team also met this past month. There was no Education meeting this past month, but another will be scheduled soon.



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The Clinics Committee has been holding the advanced training sessions, and nearly 500 people have already completed it. The video clinic has had a rousing 2 clients. Jim reported that incoming clinic emails are higher for this time of the year compared to previous years. He concluded on a positive note, “So, we are reaching the clients and they are reaching out to us.”

	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Emails					
Jan	n/a	22	24	49	
Feb	n/a	13	17	60	
Mar	n/a	53	36	128	
Apr	25	59	113		+33 4/1-4/8
May	59	69	200		
Jun	56	47	192		
Jul	53	46	208		
Aug	52	52	113		
Sep	36	43	109		

### Treasurer’s Report (TJ)

TJ reviewed budgets to actuals numbers. The good news is that the unrealized gains and losses came out ~\$2k ahead for the first quarter. One error has been corrected: TJ added in the Gardens PPE and Cleaning supplies \$1k, which was previously left out. TJ met with a Vanguard advisor to talk about best approach pulling out funds from investments and will update the group next month on how we will withdraw funds to our checking account. The next audit committee meeting will be held on April 21.

The RFF from Thyme patch was discussed. Jim motioned to approve. TJ seconded and the motion was passed.

### A’Key Grant Cycle status (Trish)

Trish and Marty put an article about the A’Key Grant in the April newsletter.

Trish and Carrie gave the board some background context on the history of the grant. Ellen A’Key was a master gardener who left \$60k in her will to the MG program. She originally intended to leave land – one property for a garden and one property for a classroom for the program. The board ended up getting cash instead around 1999. The board at that time identified a garden in her recognition. It’s not clear how they spent the remaining money. In 2009 the board decided to allocate a 2-year grant of \$1500/year to another county MG program. This went on for 2 years then was suspended for 5 years, then it was revived again as a 5-year program. Considering this information, it was discussed whether we wanted to continue with the A’Key grant cycle. No decisions were made.



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If we get any applications this year, Trish will ask for a board volunteer to assist in reviewing them.

## Fundraising Impact – Growing Groceries and BDG Workshops (Jim)

Jim reviewed the income from class registrations.

King County Master Gardener 2021 Education Outreach Donation Info



To increase earnings in future, he suggested requiring registration fees for some of the more popular classes. For example: Marcia’s class had 476 people registered, but only 200 donated. TJ suggested offering to sell classes in packages of 10 as a way of simplifying the process.

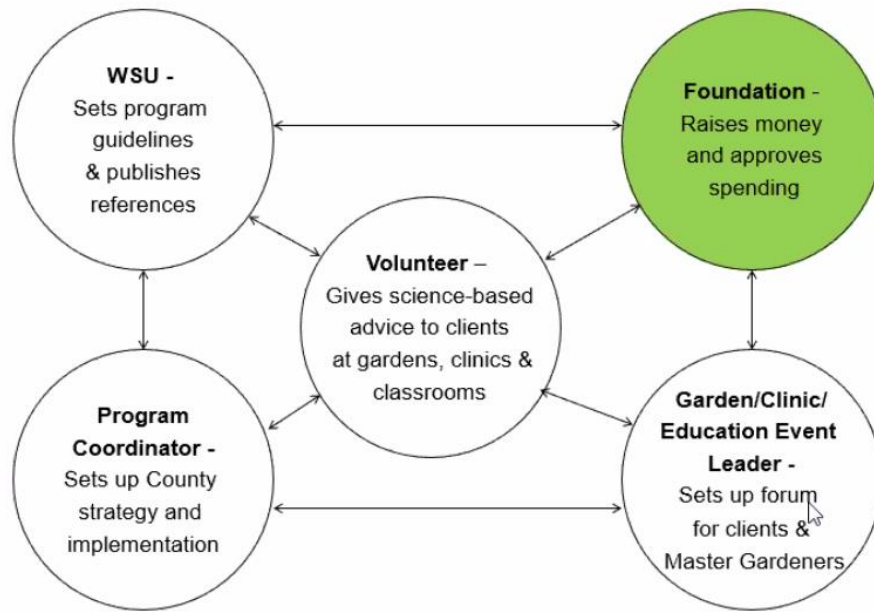
## Board Status (Jim)

The president’s term proposal was discussed. Jim and Carrie don’t feel that the change to one-year terms has worked. (The President Elect role has not become a stepping stone to President as intended.) Jim proposed reducing to three officers, each serving a two-year term with a chance for one re-up.

Bruce W asked Jim what his role was, and Jim described it as a “gopher” and Carrie said it is more like a “cat herder”. Tiffany asked how many hours per week they spent on the president role. Jim said an average 10 hours a week. Carrie said at least 5 hours a week, but she spent more time on the program coordinator role. Bruce W asked about the development of the committees and whether they would help reduce some of the burdens. Jim showed us the slide below which he said was his pitch for the role. He said the team structure Mary has set up will increase the reach of the program, but it won’t eliminate the role of the foundation.



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Trish moved to pass the proposal of changing to one president serving a 2-year term with one re-up and 2 other officers. Richelle Godwin seconded and the motion was passed.

The next step is to revise the by-laws. Jim would like a volunteer to assist with this.

### **Emergent items (All)**

Steve Hiday has not been to the past three months of board meetings. Jim asked for a volunteer to inquire whether he can continue to participate or should his position on the board be replaced. Bruce C said he would do that.

Trish Boor asked what would happen if MGs did not take the advanced clinic training. Jim advised that around Oct/Nov they will be given a final note asking them to take the class, and if they don't take that class, they will not be invited to be a MG in 2022.

Multiple board members thanked Jim and Carrie for the advanced clinics training. Carrie's presentation skills and soothing voice were praised. Jim's inclusive support for people who were new to technology was appreciated.

**Next meeting:** second Thursday in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Amy Lee.*