



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Meeting took place via Zoom

Attending: Jim Olson, Carrie Hill, Gary Scheider, Bruce Caredio, Bruce Williams, Mary Watts; Steve Hiday; Trisha Bloor; Suzi O'Byrne; Randi Smith; Richelle Godwin; Amy Lee;

Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 pm

April meeting minutes were presented. R. Smith moved to accept. B. Caredio Seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted with one abstention and no objections.

Gary Scheider presented the results of the Spring plant sale. Over-all it was a very successful sale. One dozen people pulled the sale together conceptually. There was a small number of volunteers at four sites. The number of sites made it more complicated. The first half hour of the sale was the most chaotic. Contributing to the chaos was a feature of the system that items were not pulled from inventory when they went into carts but when they got sold. So, if someone took a long time to shop they might get to check out and find that not all of their selections were available. A fair number of people didn't pick up their stuff. Those orders were delivered. The sales generated approximately \$21,000. This sale is a fraction of the cost of the CUH sale. The online sale was estimated to involve under fifty total volunteers. That is about one quarter of the demand for the CUH sale. Date for CUH set for next year. There is a plan to develop fall sale, likely at BBG in September.

A question was raised as to what charge we pay for our space in the storage shed on the CUH grounds. G. Schneider doesn't believe that we are charged for the storage space.

Mary Watts gave a program update.

The Give Pulse program is moving forward. The program is working to get training materials out to people for the first item, entering volunteer hours worked. The current WSU volunteer tracking system is out dated, and will be shut down soon.

WSU has shifted the plans for Background checks slightly. They will now be required every three years. Volunteers will have two options, Sterling or an FBI fingerprint check. If a volunteer opts for the fingerprint check they will have to pay for it on their own.

The program will at some point start collecting data about how questions map out over program priorities. This will likely start in 2022. This will be done as part of a broader effort to



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tell our story. It is similar to the ways in which we previously tracked what kind of questions we were getting asked.

J. Olson asked how the data will be used. He expressed concern for rolling something out to all counties at once. He would prefer to see a pilot program in a medium sized county.

M. Watts will take feedback to next meeting for this topic

Garden, Education, Clinic and Program Leadership Team Status

The Garden Leaders training focused on Signage. The GLT has since received several proposals for signs. These will be checked for all the required components. The GLT will also look at costs of proposals. There is a line item in the current year budget for signage.

Education – Speakers Bureau is up and running again; there is new material up on the website. The Youth Education team has been doing fantastic work. The Master Gardener website will be shared with schools. Maggie also created educational units that satisfy certain criteria that the schools need to meet. There might be an opportunity to monetize this.

Clinics – there is a meeting scheduled for the clinic leadership team regarding possible reopening of clinics. Nothing has been decided yet but given news from government things seem optimistic.

Email Clinic – the email clinic is still seeing a higher volume over this time last year.

Video Clinic – There have now been three clinics with no clients. The clinic is averaging somewhere around two. Right now it's doing a good job of training interns. Jim Olson wonders if email clinic skills will transfer to live clinics.

Hiring freeze may not apply to temporary contract positions (Mimi's). WSU has been reminded that none of Mimi's salary comes from WSU. Mary doesn't expect it to be fast.

J. Olson presented the Treasurer's Report

We've surpassed budget by \$8,000 over year end. We will continue to take in some money but we still have expenses. Currently our reserves are at \$425K. Markets are pushing that up right now. PNW handbooks will be a hit on the budget. There was a discussion of cost / earnings from plant sales in person and online.

J. Olson led an effort to finalize a change to the by-laws related the role of President



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A proposal had been put before the board to modify certain language in the by-laws. The effects of this would be to change who can remove an officer, removing past president and president elect roles, changing the terms and what to do in the case of a vacancy.

T. Bloor asked if this would be put to the membership for a vote. It was explained by J. Olson that it is only the board that would be voting on this. If a change is made then the board would send the membership notice of what was changed. If the board were to receive objections to the change the board can re-examine it. T. Bloor proposed that the limit on Board terms be extended. And would propose that we only send one mailing to the membership. We will put this on the agenda for the June meeting.

J. Olson led a discussion on fundraising and calendar lookahead

With the latest announcement from the state regarding reopening we can start thinking about the recognition event and going to gardens for board meetings.

Regarding the CUH Plant sale, Gary's role (Plant Sale Chair) will be empty for 2021. The sale itself is expensive to stage. A discussion followed regarding the dual role of the CUH sale as both fundraiser and social event for the volunteers. It was generally agreed that we can find other ways of socializing and can create other fundraisers. A discussion followed of the challenges of both. It was noted that other counties have dues for their members. Some also do Amazon Smile or sell logo wear.

Emergent items (All)

June meeting will be a deeper dive into our expenses and income with further discussion of our options around sales, fundraising and how to honor / celebrate our volunteers.

8:30 Adjourn

Next meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7 to 8:30 pm