



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

MGFKC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jim Olson, Kirby Cartwright (guest), Gary Scheider (guest), Bruce Caredio, Carrie Hill, Bruce Williams, Steve Hiday, TJ Johnson, Valentina Barei, Mary Watts (ex officio), Suzi O'Byrne, Tiffany Ng, Richelle Godwin, Trish Bloor, Amy Lee, Gia Parsons (guest), Sharon O'Grady (guest)

Absent: Randi Smith, John Sykes and Wendy Jordan

Meeting was called to order by Jim Olson.

Guests/Announcements – P. Kriese is stepping away from the several things that she presently handles – Accounts Administration, Website Management and Constant Contact.

Approve minutes for May meeting – there were some corrections that had been offered by Carrie Hill and distributed to the board for review prior to the meeting. V. Barei made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. B. Williams second, none opposed – minutes accepted.

Selection of a President

J. Olson reminded folks that the role of president is formally open. He then generously offered to continue in the role for another year. TJ Johnson made a motion to accept the Jim Olson's offer to serve another term. Everyone approved. Everyone is grateful.

Program Update by Mary Watts

WSU's most recent guidance regarding Covid 19 is that fully vaccinated MGs are no longer required to wear masks or socially distance. They will still need to fill out an attestation that they have no symptoms. Carrie Hill pointed out that each clinic location will need to follow the rules for their respective locations. Mary Watts confirmed this – whatever the most conservative policy is we follow.

GivePulse, the platform that will replace the WSU Volunteer database is moving forward. The email going out will likely be Tuesday. Hours recorded in the Volunteer database will be migrated over when GivePulse comes online.



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On the Program Assistant Position Mary Watts reported that there is not much to share. J. Marquis trying to get WSU to support that position in some fashion. Mary Watts would like to hold off on posting it until it is known if WSU will give the position benefits.

Gardens are still getting more requests for signage.

Education Team has not met. They are taking the summer off and will begin again in two months.

Clinic leadership team – G. Scheider gave update. Currently they are working through the process of opening clinics. Two main questions for every clinic are 1) can the host accommodate and 2) do we have volunteers willing to do it. He is a little surprised at the number of volunteers willing to do this.

Email clinic is flattening out a little but still very high. May was the first month to have fewer emails over the same month last year.

Finn Hill MOA is with WSU right now. It has been back and forth between WSU and land owner.

Treasurer's Report was provided by TJ Johnson

We are actually doing quite well this year. We have more income at this point. Educational seminars are doing quite well. Growing Groceries and BDG are keeping us at about the same level as last year for income from educational seminars. Our investments are holding steady. The plant sale income is good.

TJ did ask if we are re-opening clinics are we going to be incurring some expenses, specifically the PNW handbooks? J. Olson is hesitant to buy them given the training that was provided people for looking stuff up online.

Discretionary expenses were higher but that was the background checks. Still pretty low overall.

In terms of expenses, we are doing pretty well. The plant sale did well. There was a discussion of what we got from the vendors. TJ and Gary will circle back on this to check the numbers.

Not having intern training saved us some money.

TJ does not foresee any large expenses on the horizon.



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Carrie Hill commented that if we do intern training next year, we will see some income this year. There is some expense (CUH Rental) but we do make some money on it. There was a question regarding the home horticulture portion that was supposed to come to King County and what happened to the money. It is theoretically in a WSU account for King County. M. Watts hasn't seen it. She is trying to figure out how to check the account. Total was around \$10,000. There has been no decision on how to spend it though M. Watts stated that she will likely apply it to intern training.

Board Member Term limit review by Trish Bloor

Trish Bloor led a discussion of whether or not we should change the term limits. We approved Jim's revisions regarding changes to role of past president / president / president elect. T. Bloor proposed a change letting people serve more than seven consecutive years. J. Olson asked about clarification was it rolling terms or ONE additional term. Trish suggested that it could be rolling terms. There was concern among the board members that such a change would lead to stagnation on the board. After the discussion Trish withdrew her proposal.

Fundraising/spending strategy

J. Olson sent an invite to everyone regarding the Fall event at BDG. He has received some expressions of interest. Gary asked to hear more about the facility and what was being offered. It was noted that the Fall plant sale usually draws people with educational activity. Because of limits on the occupancy of the main room that will not be a possibility this year.

Jim Olson led a deeper dive into our fund raising strategy. We have three buckets: appeals, educational seminars, plant sales.

We are seeing an explosion in donations from educational efforts. We have not had an MG Advance training. We simplified our appeals. Information on plant sales was provided by Kristi Velma who is the treasurer of the spring plant sale. A discussion of the costs v. the revenue generated by each followed.

Can we build out our training programs? They allow us to further our mission and raise funds. J. Olson would like us to have a strategy in place for fund raising in 2022. Would like a volunteer or two to help with the appeals letter. Richelle Godwin asked who sets the educational requirements (curriculum), WSU or the Program Coordinator? The program coordinator (PC) has some authority. WSU sets the standards and PC has approval authority. R. Godwin believes that a side conversation would be appropriate.

Plant Sales we are putting out a lot of money for uncertain gains. Jim Olson wonders if we are making good choices. Is CUH a good choice of location? V. Barei will lead discussion and Suzi



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O'Byrne will join. B. Caredio, Gia Parsons, G. Schieder, K. Cartwright and Tiffany Ng will also join.

T. Ng volunteered to take on P. Kriese's roles.

8:28 Adjourned.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 8, 2021, 7 to 8:30 pm