



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

J. Olson, B. Williams, M. Byrne (ex officio?), C. Hill, T. Bloor, T. Ng, M. Watts (guest), TJ Johnson Wing, R. Godwin, A. Lee, B. Caredio, P. Kriese (guest), S. O'Byrne, R. Smith

The secretary was not able to join the meeting at the beginning due to technical difficulties.

Call to Order (Jim)

9/12 Event Wrap-up (Kirby Cartwright)

We had nine plant vendors participate in the 9/12 event at Bellevue Botanical Garden. They included Lee Farms and Nursery, Celestial Dream Gardens, Eastside Fuchsia Society, Keeping it Green Nursery, Washington Native Plant Society, Chimicum Woods, Fancy Fronds and Scents Nursery.

Windcliff Nursery did not participate because of their COVID concerns, but they very nicely donated their registration fee.

There were two talks given in the Aaron Education Center and twelve guided talks.

There was \$3,076.28 of revenue generated from all activities, with a new of \$2138.28. The Board complimented Kirby and his team for a job well done.

MGFKC Website (Tiffany)

Tiffany Ng provided an update on work to improve the website. This included several suggestions for cleaning it up visually and generally making it better organized. Mary noted that the design sounds very much like what had been discussed for the program website. She is uneasy about the overlap. Tiffany and Mary will have a conversation outside of the board meeting to iron out what should go where.

Recognition event status (Richelle)

Gave a brief update. Summary – we are in good shape with about 65 participants registered.

Program Update (Mary)

Mary provided a report on program headcount. Annual attrition rate has been 15% off set by new MGs. 2021 saw a 20% reduction in numbers. The increase is attributed to the opposition to the enhanced background checks.

Intern class for 2022 has about 100 applicants. There is no limit to this year's class as it will not have the limitations of room size.



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Currently Mary expects our numbers to hold solid. We won't know exact attrition due to Vaccine mandate until reapplication in December. Right now, non-vaxed are inactive. Some may come back later.

Mary believes that between GivePulse and the Vaccination requirement we will exceed our normal 15 % historical attrition rates.

She hopes to make a decision and an offer of employment on the assistant position next week.

Treasurer's Report (TJ)

2022 Budget Exercise – budget season is in process.

Investment review conclusions – Financial advisors that looked at what we had thought we had a lot of money in high risk (stocks). Advisors won't take us on even as Pro bono without a written investment policy. The investment committee went defunct around 2016. TJ doesn't know how funds were chosen. J. Olson offered that Dave Hanower and P. Kriese may have history.

Recommendation – need to distribute before end of year. TJ wants approval for distribution of \$20,000. Can split across funds.

After some discussion a motion was made and passed to withdraw \$30,000 from S&P 500 Fund.

- TJ believes that we need to review and revise the investment policy.
- The Board needs to decide if we should re-institute the investment committee.
- It was suggested that we solicit the MG Community for help with financial planning and if not able to find someone appropriately qualified that we hire someone.

J. Olson suggested that we save the prior three points for January and deep dive.

Board Member report on Special Focus Status

- Education Team – Richelle and Bruce W. – education committee hasn't met yet.
- Plant Sale Team – Valentina – will resume in November
- Donations – Randi – John and Randi have sent a call to the clinic leaders and garden leaders asking about "why are you a MG". The goal is to get stories that are relatable and give people motivation to donate. We will stick with annual letter and do another in the spring. They are looking at revamping donations portion of the website. There was a discussion about how to get donors engaged.

Adjourn 8:36

Next meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2021, 7 to 8:30 pm
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