



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Olson, Carrie Hill, Bruce Caredio, Bruce Williams, TJ Johnson, Phil Fordyce, Amy Lee, Sarah Moore, Suzi O'Byrne, Lin Provost, Nancy Marshall

Absent: Trish Bloor, Linda Peterson

Guests: Daryl Schlessler, Sharon O'Grady

7:05 Call to Order (Jim)

- Meeting was called to order by Jim Olson @ 7:05 p.m.
- Guests today - Daryl Schlessler & Sharon O'Grady
- Minutes for October meeting were approved. TJ motioned, Suzi seconded, and there was unanimous approval voted by all attending members.

7:07 Treasurers Report (Nancy)

- 2023 budget has not been reviewed yet.
- Microsoft donated \$1,750.
 - This was based on one member's volunteer hours.
 - MS also offers dollar matching as a second option.
 - Phil asked if we routinely remind MS employees that these options are available. He suggested we note it in the newsletter.
 - Suzie mentioned that we can use Amazon Smile to donate to MGFKC too. She said she would be willing to write a story for the Connection.
 - Bruce W. suggested that we include this information in our appeals letters too.
- Brown Bear tickets need to be audited. \$720 miscellaneous income from that.
- Sept plant sale "Hot Plants Cool Topics" generated \$1259 income
- Annual meeting expenses \$726 – it was low since we used credit that was paid the caterer last year.
- Investments are up.
- Nancy received a scam email that appeared to be from Jim asking for a fast money transfer and reminded us to be cautious of these.
- MGFKC status as a non-profit has been renewed with the State.
- Sharon O'Grady advised that the MOA for Finn Hill demo garden is still outstanding. Ongoing obstacles have been brought forward by the Catholic Church. (E.g. requirements for porta potties, road maintenance, etc.) Budget spending will be paused until an agreement is in place. If the MOA is not completed in a timely manner, Sharon may relinquish this project.



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7:25 Program Update (Sarah)

- **Intern program:** 150-165 intern training applications have been received and are being screened. Sarah is accounting for clinic needs. Speakers are being scheduled for the program.
- **Education leadership team:** planning to focus on available CE opportunities and connecting people to them.
- **Garden leadership team:** meeting next week and completing end of year reports. Sarah is talking to them about goal setting for next year.
 - Jim asked if any of the gardens had put fundraising into their plans. He recommended framing goals around what they need and what funds they can raise.
- **Clinic leadership team:** annual close out meeting on Saturday.
- Sarah also asked for input from Jim for her own goal setting.
- The Program Assistant JD is being updated. Jim said that a board subcommittee is working on the Program Assistant budget. He asked Sarah to share the budget for income and expenses for 2023 (intern training) to assist board with this process, and she agreed.

7:37 Annual Meeting and Recognition Event Wrap Up (Jim)

- There were about 87 attendees
- Jim noted that it was a provocative CE event. The speaker discussed the cultural influences on gardens, which is a WSU focus.
- Phil said that the food was a big hit!
- Sarah received feedback that there were fewer awardees than in the past. Phil noted that a good number of awardees did not attend.
- Thanks were given to the event preparation team - Amy Phil, TJ, Sarah Jim, and tech help from Carrie.

7:41 Fundraising Look Ahead (Jim)

- **Plant Sales**
 - Jim discussed recruiting new plant sale leaders.
 - The Fuchsia Society requested that we partner with them to organize a table to sell plants at their upcoming event in May.
 - Sharon noted that Growing Groceries has been a good fundraiser in recent years. She asked if we could ask them to grow and donate plants.
 - Bruce W said he will mentor and support anyone who wants to manage commercial vendors in future. Jim said this would be a great idea to include in a news article in the new year.
- **Education Events**



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- This is the most mature fundraising offering that we have. Subscriptions and recordings have demonstrated solid growth. Detailed curriculum is being developed for 2023.
- TJ asked whether we would be looking at in-person events in future. Jim said that is what he asked the Education committee to consider for fundraising goal setting in 2023.
- Sharon mentioned that the St. John Vianney Catholic Church has a hall.
- Suzie recommended that we hand select plants from TNL wholesale vendors and sell them. As an example, NPA makes \$50k/year by putting out plants at BBG.
- Bruce agreed that TNL is a great resource, and suggested that we offer plants that are not a duplication of the of other vendors.
- **Appeals Letter**
 - Letters were launched last weekend. (Board members prepped 580 letters)
 - TJ said the mid-year email appeal generated around \$2500. It was cheap to implement and should be considered again for next year.
 - Phil commented that the envelope stuffing was a really cool event. He enjoyed the informal chatting in-person, and suggested opening it up to others.
 - Sharon said she raised \$4200 without spending any of the foundation's money, and still has money left over from 2022 budget. Jim suggested that she join the board.
- **Brown Bear**
 - 200 tickets were purchased. 66 are left. Need to decide if we should continue this pilot project.
 - TJ said she had to go looking for these at the Sept event, and suggested more signage and promotion in future.

8:10 Emergent Items (All)

- Bruce advised that the Saturday Renton Farmer Market / Fairwood library clinic had their end of year potluck. He said that the clinic leader asked for 5-6 interns and only got two. They lost both when one ghosted them and the other stopped coming after a couple of weeks. He mentioned that they are also losing veterans. He asked whoever is vetting the candidates for intern training to let them know it is a commitment.
- Phil was at the Bellevue Demo and Bellevue Nursery end of year meeting. He said people thought it was cool to have a board member attend clinic meetings. They were interested in what the board does. He suggested including an article in the MG newsletter such as "Presidents Corner" or a joint story between the President and Sarah, and use this as a recruitment tool too. Cleo Raulerson is in charge of the MG speaker bureau, and it was suggested that we promote this resource more.



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- Suzie said she received a thank you note from her last intern. She suggested we create some sort of “be nice” doc because some people felt not all of the demo gardens were welcoming.
- Sarah said it is on her to-do list to have a pep talk with the garden leaders re: interns, so they are excited to return, and have a sense of ownership and affiliation. She suggested we consider some similar conversations with the clinics, including what it means to be a mentor.
- Jim said he was thinking of putting together a zoom offering (30 to 45 minute), perhaps identified as CE on the Foundation versus the WSU Program n in 2023.

8:30 Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned @ 8:22pm.

Next meeting: December 8, 2022, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm