



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Bruce Williams, Trish Bloor.

Guests: Joe Jennings, Daryl Schlessler, Gary Scheider, Dawn Rubstello.

7:03 Call to Order (Jim)

- The meeting was called to order by Jim Olson @ 7:03 p.m.
- Guests/Announcements
 - Guests today - Daryl Schlessler, Joe Jennings, Gary Scheider, Dawn Rubstello.
 - Board Members Garden Visits – Jim encouraged board members to visit various KCMG gardens to become acquainted with them. TJ encourages board members when the interns are scheduled and will send the details out to everyone following the board meeting.
- Minutes for February meeting were approved. Phil motioned, Bruce C seconded, and there was unanimous approval voted by all attending members.

7:05 Program Update (Sarah)

- **Program Goals** – Sarah outlined the goals below. Phil asked for the intern training group to be recognized. He also asked her to explain diversity, equity, inclusion & access goals. Sarah said she would like to create a team to understand if there are underrepresented groups and what kind of outreach & access is needed. Amy suggested the WSU would have resources to support this. Sarah said she could speak more about this in the next meeting. She said that a new WSU Extension director would be named soon, and she is working with the acting director on transition-related details.

The slide features the Washington State University Extension logo in the top left corner, which includes a stylized red and white 'W' and 'S' with a dragon-like creature. The title 'Program Goals' is centered at the top. A list of ten bullet points is presented in the center, and a circular logo with a red and white floral pattern is in the bottom right corner.


Program Goals

- Recruit and hire Program Assistant : Currently Posted
- Identify and cultivate volunteer leadership (in bite sized pieces)
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access – create advisory team and first steps
- Recognition - create team or engage more with Board recognition
- 100% MG familiar with Program Priorities, know how they relate to our work
- Extension relationships – measurable steps to rebuild
- 25% Master Gardeners understand relationship between WSU, Extension and Program
- Board and Program discuss and define roles and responsibilities
- Documented plan for basic training 2024
- Increase our story telling capacity – capture pictures and narratives




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- **Master Gardener Program Report**
 - The Master Gardener program was recognized in the King County Extension report to King County (2021 report released in 2022). It was highlighted that MGs are trained first detectors of invasive species, that they teach and organize community gardens, and educate on actions to mitigate climate change.
- **Clinic Leaders Meeting**



Clinic Leaders Meeting on 3/ 12

- Introducing 2 new resource sheets
- Reducing paper use, encouraging QR codes
- Introducing a CAR with Program Priorities for early adoption (with amazing support)



- **Last day of basic training 3/12**



Last day of Basic Training 3/ 12

- Warm thanks to all who contributed to its success
- Next steps: demonstration Garden days
- Please help welcome interns anywhere you work together
- Help them learn, and be open to learn from them



7:20 Treasurers Report (Nancy)

- There is steady income from Growing Groceries and BDG online classes
- Miscellaneous income - \$720 t-shirt sale to the interns (Thank you Jim, Trish & Phil!)
- The big issue with the 2023 budget is that it is underwater \$87k. People have expressed concern over this. Nancy said Joe suggested moving out of the Seattle UW CUH office space and into the Renton extension office instead. (Address is: 560 Naches Ave SW #130, Renton, WA 98057) This could save up to \$30k/year, assuming we can get out of the existing lease. Carrie said we would need to talk to the new



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extension director to understand what kind of office space is available in Renton and set up a sub-team to manage the project. Nancy volunteered for the sub-team. Jim said we will add this as a full agenda item for the April meeting and said he felt a project manager would be necessary. Lin said we should remember that we will need a second room for the diagnostic team and their equipment. Jim said we should also consider storage for canopies and plant sales items. TJ said we should also look at office infrastructure such as printing, postal system, parking – and what expenses we could incur. Sarah said she does not have a sense of the timeline, and we would need to check on office dimensions available at the extension office. She said no storage is available. Nancy said we will need a written agreement and suggested asking Bruce W. to assist with this. Phil said this seems like a program administrative function best served by Sarah leading it. TJ advised that the contract is between the foundation and UW. Bruce C texted that a used shipping container could potentially be arranged for a storage space. Jim concluded by saying that the intention is to form a project team to analyze this further.

7:30 Development Survey Findings/Next Steps (Joe)

- Joe walked us through his report (attached). He provided an executive summary of his development survey and discussed the nature of major donors. He looked at comparisons to other MG programs in WA. Suzie said she is very much in favor of the proposal. Nancy asked for the definition of a major donor. Joe said that every foundation he has studied will evolve that answer over time. He will figure out who is donating money, then identify a visionary project (e.g., a greenhouse) and go from there. TJ asked how the software works. Joe described how it scrapes publicly available information about people and builds wealth profiles regarding an individual's historical donations to non-profit organizations & political campaigns. Gary said he sits on the BBG development committee, and he is astonished to observe the kinds of donations they receive. Amy asked what kinds of cultural changes this approach could be expected to bring to both the board and within the broader membership community. Joe said the organization could maintain the high touch community efforts, and additionally start high touch donor efforts behind that. TJ asked if Joe was asking the board to revisit the annual budget and change the office lease. Jim said we could make this the lead topic for the April meeting. Joe said he preferred not to wait.

8:00 Request for Funds Review (Joe)

- Donor Development Program
 - The board considered the attached RFF for a DonorSearch Software License, at a total cost of \$3000, broken into payments of \$1500 in 2023 and \$1500 in 2024.
 - Jim noted that this expenditure would exhaust the majority of the RFF funds for the rest of the year. Amy asked what other platforms have been considered. Joe expressed that his recommendation was based off previous



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experience with this type of service. After the meeting he emailed to say that other platforms he has previously considered are: WealthEngine, and iWave.

- Phil motioned that we approve the RFF, and Lin seconded. All attending board members voted yes, except Amy who abstained. Motion passed.

8:29 Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned @ 8.29pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7 pm to 9 pm, on Zoom