

## **MGFKC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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

Attendees: (10 Board members + 1 staff) Phil Fordyce, Lin Provost, Nancy Marshall, Trish Bloor, Suzi O'Byrne, TJ Johnson, Matt Jennings, Daryl Schlessler, Gary Scheider, Dawn Rubstello, Sarah Moore (WSU staff, KCMG Coordinator)

Absent: Linda Peterson, Joe Jennings, Linda Kaufman

Guests: Joan Baldwin, Sharon O'Grady

### **7:04 Call to Order (TJ - Prez pro tem)**

- The meeting was called to order by TJ Johnson @ 7:04 p.m.
- Guests: Joan Baldwin, Sharon O'Grady
- TJ welcomed new Board members: Joe Jennings, Matt Jennings, Linda Kaufman, Dawn Rubstello, Daryl Schlessler, & Gary Scheider. Returning Board members for their second term are Trish & Suzi. Continuing Board members are Tj, Linda P., Phil, Lin P., and Nancy
- Trish is filling in as Secretary pro tem for this meeting.
- Trish moved, Suzi seconded — Minutes for May meeting were unanimously approved by all attending members.

### **Officer Elections (TJ)**

- TJ asked for nominations for Board President. Suzi nominated TJ. TJ declined. No other nominations were put forward.
- TJ asked for nominations for Board Vice President. Daryl said Joe J. would like to be considered for VP as he's interested in being Chair of Development. Daryl mentioned these are 2 separate Board roles and if Joe is interested in doing both, then Daryl nominates Joe J. Suzi seconded. Lin mentioned we don't currently have VP of Development in ByLaws. It was decided we should postpone election of VP until July Board meeting when Joe can clarify his intentions to be nominated for VP.
- TJ asked for nominations for Board Secretary. None were put forward.
- It was agreed that we would postpone officer elections until the July meeting when we hope all Board members will be present and nominations will be put forth.
- TJ agreed to be Prez pro tem for July meeting. A Board member will need to volunteer to be Secretary pro tem for the July meeting, TBD.

### **Guest Input (Sharon O'Grady)**

- Sharon is present at June meeting in case the Board needed more info on demise of the Finn Hill demo garden. She thanked the Foundation for all their financial support. Sharon is writing an article for the July e-newsletter letting everyone know. Board conveyed deep sadness at the demise and recognized all the effort that MGs under Sharon put into creating this demo garden for the KCMG program. Sharon said lesson learned is, "not start a project that might be at risk if a legal agreement is not in place." Legal teams (Church and WSU) were not sync'd up and couldn't reach agreement. Sarah Moore said Sharon O. has been a "model of leadership and grace under pressure throughout this process". Sharon met with Kenmore Parks Dept and there's strong possibility her Finn Hill team can move over and help Kenmore with their established Rhododendron Garden and do MG community education in that space. More info

to come on that. Sarah will reach out to Board if Board approval needed for any kind of agreement that might be necessary with Kenmore. Note: Carol Johnson tried to log into meeting in progress unsuccessfully (co-lead with Sharon at Finn Hill).

#### **Program Update (Sarah Moore)**

- New Extension Director, Alyssa Bowers, started June 1
- New Program assistant, Nora Larson, started f/t yesterday — Sarah onboarding Nora. Nora will take over work Daryl has been doing (e.g., Give Pulse admin), as well as Intern Training work Anne Neilson was doing. Nora interested in keeping close touch with all Clinics. Will be attending July Board mtg.

#### **Office Future Update (Sarah Moore)**

- MG storage shed on CUH property — very full of carts used at previous CUH plant sales. Can carts be repurposed somewhere else, like demo gardens? Gary wrote up request for “Garden of Opportunities” for MG volunteers to inventory CUH shed on July 7. No storage space at new KCMG program location for storage shed contents. Sarah will give update at July meeting including itemized CUH shed list.
- Diagnostic Clinic will probably move to new KCMG program location at Extension office.

#### **Treasurer’s Report (Nancy)**

- MGs working on 2023 forecast based on 2023 actuals (reflecting revisions to 2023 budget), not completed yet.
- Postage expense “out-of-control” due to bills from UW for prior years
- New Board members need Drop Box access.
- See Nancy’s reports for detail which she will email to folks that don’t have access
- Tax return finished

#### **Development Update (TJ)**

- Board received email with Feasability report from Joe Jennings (available as separate copy in DropBox with June minutes). We will go over report at July meeting if we have time or a special meeting if required.
- Not formally recognized that Joe was starting a Development Committee back when. We will discuss a motion to formalize a Development Comm at July meeting and recognize Joe as Chair (assuming that is role he still wants). Joe’s enthusiasm to lead this effort is recognized and appreciated.
- According to ByLaws — Existing recognized committees that can be brought to life as needed by the Board are Audit, Finance, & Development. These committee report to the Board & make recommendations to the Board, and the Board votes on recommendations.

#### **Advanced Education Conference (TJ)**

- Jim Olson notified Board in email of request for MGFKC to make financial contribution to help fund conference. Conference will not be held live every year going forward since so expensive. MGFKC contributed \$250 to last year’s conference. Gary mentioned impt we invite Tana Hasart

to a future Foundation meeting — impt to align with state MG Foundation and Gary supports a financial contribution.

- Motion made by Phil to contribute \$250 to AEC and invite Tana to future Foundation mtg. Suzi seconded. Motion unanimously passed by all attending members. Tj asked Nancy to include as a line item for future budget planning. Daryl mentioned that in talking with Tana, MGFKC should understand how other MG Foundations in WA are contributing to state Foundation. And MGFKC should hopefully consider increasing level of support beyond \$250 in future.
- Phil's wife is making another quilt to be donated to Silent Auction at this year's AEC.

### **Spring Email Appeal (TJ)**

- Waiting for 2023 reforecasted numbers. We will discuss further at July meeting. Note: MGFKC always does a fall snail mail appeal.
- Phil commented he found urgent request (by well-meaning incoming Board member) to approve a Spring Appeal draft, which was sent to both outgoing and incoming new Board members in May, "awkward", "strange", and not how MGFKC should conduct a Board vote. It put incoming Board members in an awkward position as they weren't sitting Board members yet.
- General thoughts were this transition period between prior and new sitting Board members presented some challenges.

### **Fall Plant Sale CE Event, September 10, 2023 (Dawn)**

- Education committee (Dawn is new head) in charge of event. **Hot topics, Cool Plants** theme as in years past. No budget for this event. Need money to pay a speaker & \$20/hour to BBG for onsite BBG employee since it's a Sunday.
- 2 speakers: WA Native Plant Society & Noxious Weeds. Only need honorarium for WNPS and Dawn thinks only \$100. Weeds speaker is from King County and is free.
- WNPS asked to sell native plants during event and that no other vendor sell native plants. Dawn said other BBG partner orgs like Fuchsia group are welcome to sell if they want.
- Dawn will figure out budget and make request for funds to Foundation at July mtg. There will be a registration fee (\$10?) for each speaker that most likely will cover expenses and then some.
- Altho Sept event historically includes a plant sale by MGKC, Ed Committee is not putting on a plant sale. Will MG community and public expect a general plant sale?
- Suzi (who was on team in charge of Sept event last year) mentioned that a plant sale is what brings ppl to the event. She encourages we sponsor a plant sale if possible. Dawn agreed that would be "awesome" but Ed Committee will not be taking that on, particularly at this late date. Ed Committee had to be talked into doing the CE/Speaker event.
- Daryl pointed out that the role of Foundation is not to do "all the work" but to provide oversight, approve spending, and recruit other MG volunteers to be in charge, as in past with CUH plant sale. Good for Board to think about for 2024 fall event at BBG. Too late to recruit & execute for 2023.
- Joan recommends (for future) that we plan to bring in wholesale vendors for this Sept event. Said when NPA brings in vendors for plant sales at BBG, NPA charges them 10% of their sales. Joan offered to provide vendor contacts to Dawn or anyone that needs them.

- Last year MGF charged commercial vendors a table fee (\$100). BBG partner orgs were not charged a table fee.
- Agreed that we need to figure out how to run Sept event in future with MG volunteers (not necessarily Board members) that will do the planning, organizing, recruiting for staffing, etc.

#### **Emergent items (All)**

- Gary put forth Joan Baldwin (currently MG guest) to join the Board and also become the MGFKC President. Discussion ensued about how to make this happen in expedient way and according to ByLaws.
- Joan is currently on NPA Board as Treasurer. And has been running Growing Groceries very successfully for several years. Sharon O'Grady is taking over leadership role for GG, "freeing" up time for Joan.
- Many Board members voiced their support for Joan joining the Board and becoming President. TJ asked Joan to submit an email to the Board indicating her interest, bio, etc.

**General meeting adjourned** and Board members remained for Executive Session

#### **Other emergent items during executive session that need minute notes:**

- Gary brought up conversations he's having with other state MG leaders about returning to 2024 Flower & Garden show in same "posture" as we did in 2023. TJ said item is on our July agenda. Decision needs to be made soon regarding partnering with state.
- Suzi brought up that no one showed up for Maple Valley Food Bank Zoom education event she was supposed to give on Seed Starting. Discussion ensued on how and what might we do to make this a successful partnership. MV has never done anything like this before. MV not sure how to drum up interest. MGKC Maple Valley Team will need to figure out next steps.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm**

**Next Meeting - Thursday, July 13th**