



MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, November 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172076722> Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

One tap mobile - +12532158782,,88172076722#

Dial in - +1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

Directors In Attendance: Joan Baldwin, Joe Jennings, Linda Kaufman, Gary Scheider, Trish Bloor, Matt Jennings, Nancy Marshall, Daryl Schlessler, Phil Fordyce, TJ Johnson, Suzi O’Byrne

Guests: Sarah Moore, April Creasey

Agenda

7:00 Call to Order (Joan).....5 minutes

- Welcome – guests were recognized.
- Approve October Minutes – Trish moved to approve; Gary seconded; minutes approved.

7:05 President’s Report (Joan).....5 minutes

- October 21st Appreciation Event Recap – Joan thanked all those that attended, especially the organizing committee: Joe, Suzi, Sarah, Linda P., Gary, and Patricia Tuor who helped with the plant gifts. People appreciated the time taken to allow attendees to introduce themselves.
- Shoreline Summer Gardening Series Grant report – Joan reported that the grant was complete and submitted to the city. We should receive the \$6000 grant from the city by the end of the year.
- Seed donation from Territorial Seeds for demo gardens – Joan will discuss this offer with Sarah and the MG demo gardens. It was noted that clinics may receive seed donations as well and that we should make sure the clinic leaders let other clinics know in case they have a need.
- CUH/UW conversation update - Joan and several others will be meeting with UW representatives on 11/13/2023 to discuss the current MG lease. The options are to stay for the remainder of the lease rent free or terminate the lease and move to our new location in Renton. Joan is cautiously optimistic.

7:10 Development Committee Update (Joe).....20 minutes

- Refer to information Joe sent relating to how the current fund raising is going.
- Joe updated the Board on the current fall appeal. We have raised \$11,620. This is 30% higher than last year but it is unlikely we will hit our target of \$50,000. There were slight increases in the donors at the \$1000 and \$500 giving levels.



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- April shared a brief update on the analytic tracking software and how that information is useful.
- The committee has started planning for next year and this effort will be used in developing the 2024 draft budget that will be discussed next month. The committee is looking at how best to grow future revenue.

7:30 Program Update (Sarah).....15 minutes

- Refer to information Sarah sent for this meeting.
- Sarah updated the Board on applications for 2024 interns. The number of applications increased from 2023. She is looking for help to support and staff the intern training program.
- The current MG yearly certification is at 60%. There will be continuing outreach to encourage more certifications between now and the end of the year.
- Sarah asked for Board members to help support the 2023 intern graduation event. Contact Sarah if you are interested.
- Pierce County is in the process of hiring a new county MG program manager. Sarah will help in the candidate search and interview process. She also plans to actively look for more ways to engage and collaborate with the Peirce County MG's.
- Sarah noted the Jennifer Marquis reviewed our annual report and was very impressed with the presentation and commented that it was a "game changer". Sarah will begin sharing statewide if there is interest.

7:45 Treasurer's Report (Nancy).....5 minutes

- Refer to financial and audit information Nancy sent for this meeting.
- October financials are complete, and she continues to monitor as the year end approaches.
- The tax returns are complete and will be submitted by 11/15.
- 2024 Budget preparations are underway for Board discussion next month.
- The audit report was brought up and there were no comments from the Board. Everything looks good.

7:50 Board member Recruitment/ Succession Plans (Phil))10 minutes

- Phil presented an idea that the Board should consider looking at diversifying the board membership to assist in fund raising. Joe said that this idea is in the work plan for the development committee next and that making a bylaw change was simple. Currently the foundation needs to resolve our revenue and budget issues before we consider bringing in new board members. More to come next year.
- Phil presented an idea to help recruit board members to the vice-president and president positions. The idea was to make an appointment for the vice president in their first year on the Board. That person would then move to the president position in their second and will use the knowledge gained in their first year. That person



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would then move to a president “at large” position that would coach and mentor the new president and would serve as the lead in Board member recruitment. Phil suggested that a process like this could be more orderly and defined and should help attract interest in filling these critical positions as there is a clear path and there is support for the new people coming in. It was noted that this idea has been discussed in the past and that Phil should reach out to Penny and Carrie for input – he will do so and report back to the Board. Joan noted that she had been on other Boards where a similar process had worked.

8:00 2024 Plant Sale Proposal (joe) 30 minutes

- Refer to information Joe sent relating to a tomato plant sale proposal.
- The proposal was discussed as an idea to help offset our revenue deficits that are projected for next year. This effort should be coordinated with Marica Dillon who has a lot of experience in growing tomatoes for plant sales.
- Daryl noted that plant sales like this, and past CUH efforts, should be led by non-board members and that in the past, the people that have led these efforts have gotten burned out and they felt there was not a lot of Board support. The Board discussed the need to engage past plant sale leaders and look for lessons learned.
- Joe noted that a fund-raising effort like this could raise enough money to cover future budget needs. These budget issues are dependent upon whether we are successful in terminating our lease with UW or remaining at CUH rent free for the final year of the lease.
- Regardless of funding issues the Board discussed the need to explore creating other additional plant sales as well as growing our current plant sales. These ideas will be discussed during upcoming budget discussions for 2024.

8:45 Adjourn

Next meeting: Thursday, December 14th, 2023, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, on Zoom

References:

See information sent prior to this Board meeting.