



# MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

## DRAFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

One tap mobile - +1 253 215 8782, 881 7207 6722#

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**Directors In Attendance:** Joan Baldwin, Daryl Schlessler, Phil Fordyce, Lin Provost, Trish Bloor, Gary Scheider, Suzi O’Byrne, Linda Kaufman, Dawn Rubstello, Nancy Marshall, Marie Kurka-Brown, Mary Ellen Stone, and Lynda Firey Oldroyd.

**EX-officio:** Sarah Moore

**Members:** Wesa Anderson, Tujuana Simon, and Laura Gallegos

**Guests:** none

### **Agenda**

- 6:32 Call to Order (Joan)..... 5 minutes
  - Welcome – Joan recognized any guests noted above. Brief introductions of Board members.
  - Approval of the November 2025 minutes – Lin P. moved to approve; Linda Firey Oldroyd seconded; the minutes were approved.
  - Review of September action items:
    - Davenport Bequest – finance committee will meet early next year to create a plan for the Board’s review.
    - 2026 Board election, bylaw revisions, and term rebalancing – discussed later in minutes.
    - EMG merchandising – discussed later in minutes.
  
- 6:37 President’s Report (Joan)..... 8 minutes
  - Jeremy Miller has resigned from the Board. He will stay engaged in Master Gardener activities and will support the Board when he can.
  - The State Foundation met and adopted their annual budget. The budget has been impacted by the cancelation of the 2026 Annual Education Conference. This conference provided a large part of their funding. The conference was cancelled due to lack of volunteers.
  - Joan noted that the State Foundation is running a sock sale that will end December 15<sup>th</sup>. She suggested the Board members check out what is for sale.



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- Kayah Swanson’s contract will be renewed, and it will start January 1, 2026.
  - Joan noted the Seattle Garden Club is looking to provide funding to the Cesar Chavez demonstration garden. She is looking for volunteers to write a grant proposal that is due January 1, 2026.
  - Joan will be gone in January and Daryl will lead that Board meeting.
- 6:45 Capital Funding Request (Wesa Anderson) ..... 15 minutes
- Wesa provide an overview of a capital fund request to update and standardize the appearance of the clinics, and improve the Master Gardener branding.
  - The Board was supportive of this presentation and asked her to come back with refined numbers, noting that this request will be the final budget that the Clinic Leadership team must work with. The goal would be to have as much of the updating done by the start of the 2026 clinic season.
- 7:00 Governance Committee Update (Marly Ellen) ..... 5 minutes
- Mary Ellen updated the board on the committee’s work to develop a president elect position as well as a past president position. The Board’s bylaws will need to be updated. The committee is looking at using the State Foundation bylaws as a guide.
  - The committee is recommending that the Board election period be shortened.
- 7:05 Development Committee (Joan) ..... 10 minutes
- Joan provided an update on the fall appeal. We currently have \$17,077 in donations. We expect to end the campaign at around \$25,000. Joan thanked the Board for their 100% commitment.
  - Joan asked for volunteers to start the MG merchandising fundraising program. Five Board members volunteered and they are expected to start after the 1st of the year.
- 7:15 Director Elections (Joan) ..... 10 minutes
- Joan updated the Board on the plans to shorten the Board elections from 4 weeks to 2 weeks. This election period will be revised when the Bylaws are updated early next year.
  - Joan asked for volunteers for the Board Recruitment Task Force. Five Board members volunteered. They will look at Board needs and provide a screening of potential candidates.
- 7: 25 Program Update (Sarah) .....15 minutes
- Green School training is underway and going well. There are fewer interns than last year.
  - There will be graduation for last year’s intern on January 10<sup>th</sup>, and Sarah asked that Board members attend to support this event. The new interns will also be invited to kick off their clinic training.



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- Sarah noted that in recent survey's results that there is a lot of interest in supporting the clinics at events around King County.
- Sarah stated that 89% of our Master Gardeners have recertified.
- Sarah is expecting to have update Memorandum of Agreements for the following Demonstration Gardens: Soos Creek, Animal Acres, and Carkeek Park.
- April Creasey is the new Technology Support team leader.
- Sarah shared her program goals for 2026 with the Board. The Board was supportive of her future goals.

7:40 Treasurer's Report (Nancy) .....30 minutes

- Refer to financial information and the draft 2026 budget previously sent to the Foundation board members prior to the meeting.
- Budgets versus actuals look good and are trending as expected. No surprises.
- Investments showed positive gains.
- The draft 2026 Budget was reviewed by the Board and the Board provided input related to changes that need to be made. The draft budget will be updated and brought back to the Board in January for review and potential approval.

8:10 New business ..... 0 minutes

- No new business.

8:10 Adjourn

- Suzi moved to adjourn; Linda K. seconded; the motion passed.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, January 8th, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, on Zoom

References:

See information sent to Foundation Board members prior to this Board meeting.

Attachments:

None.