

Master Gardener Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

5.13.2020	07:00PM	Master Gardener Steering Committee Meeting Location: Johnson Co. Extension -WebEx Virtual meeting
Attendees	<p>(13/22 Quorum-Yes) Present: Jackie Wellborn, Beth Fisher, Doug Geraets, Carolyn Murphy, Linda Schreiber, Chris Sedrel, Sharon Jeter, Jean Holzhammer, Darlene Clausen, Emil Rinderspacher, Esther Retish, Michael Hesseltine, Joan Dinnel (tried to join)</p> <p>Not Present: Barb Krug, Mike Murphy, Alice Linhart, Lavon Yeggy, Cindy Parsons, Barb Schintler, Pat Kealy, Betty Kelly, Joanne Leach, Marilou Gay, Melanie Hauptert, Vickie Siefers, Ann Tvedte,</p> <p>Others Present: Shannon Bielicke, Melissa Serenda</p>	
Secretary's Report:		
Minutes from last meeting approval. Available online.		
Treasurer's Report:		
<p>Report: Jean Holzhammer– Plum Grove: \$1,809.53 Balance General: \$ 11,255.23 Balance Butterfly Garden: \$2,397.87 Balance Reimbursement Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Schreiber and Sharon Jeter will be submitting for reimbursement for MG General, Downtown City Gardens, Plant material total ~\$304.69 		
Old Business		
Discussion	None at this time.	
Discussion	Upcoming events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None at this time. 		
New Business		
Discussion	Additional Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parameters for working on garden projects. BE EXTRA CAREFUL and AWARE. No more than 10 people that can stay 6 feet apart. Most gardens are not big enough for 10 people to stay that far apart so 1-3 people is a better guideline. Coordinate with each other on who will be where when so that you don't bump into each other. Make sure you are communicating with the project leader so they can let others know when you will be in the garden. Use your own tools. Do not share and make sure to wipe things down. Wear masks especially if you could be potentially crossing paths with someone. Be aware and considerate of others. Stay home if you are sick. And do not feel obligated to volunteer. You don't know all of who they are in contact with in their lives and we want to do our best to keep everyone safe. 		

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Discussion	Additional Notes:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension updates- No ISU & ISU Extension large group events through May 31. Staff Updates: Gene Mohling has been promoted to a Director over REEDS, there is a search occurring for a new REED that will cover Johnson Co. Brittnee Schneider has taken a position as County Director in Washington Co. She will be splitting her time between Washington Co. and Johnson Co. until a replacement is found. Amey Kollar has taken a position as YPS that covers Johnson Co. and Iowa Co. Shannon Bielicke is staying put but will have added responsibilities until all positions and new hires are sorted out. • The Johnson County Fair- An update will be made public within the week. Johnson Co. 4-H is being proactive to make plans for alternative options in the case that social distancing is still in affect at the time of fair. • Shannon, Darlene, Beth, & Carolyn will be working on a SignUp Genius online sign up form for the Core Projects. It will gather names of JCMGs that are interested in getting more information about specific projects. • Calling Tree for all JCMGs including first year interns. Roster distributed. Please contact Sharon Jeter if you would like to help make phone calls to check in with everyone. • Reporting hours Online Shannon demonstrated by sharing her screen how to report volunteer and educational hours online using the project help sheet. Shannon will look into pulling an over all report for each monthly meeting to see progress of hours reported. • Michael has been hired as the Ag Association office coordinator. Mowing is being hired out. • 2020 Seed Share Online ended two weeks after launching in mid-April. Master Gardeners distributed nearly 1,600 seed packets to individuals, daycare and Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs and donated remaining seed packets to area pantries and food banks. The Facebook response follows: Reach - 9,909; engagement - 1,943; comments - 288; shares - 76. We also responded to 485 emails. Lessons learned: post an updatable inventory to our webpage (social media can't accommodate but will allow a link); local distribution, pick-up only. JCMG Seed Share goals remain the same: inspire gardening and encourage donations to area food pantries to serve those who are food insecure. • Follow up note from after the meeting: Remember that Linda Schreiber post JCMG workday information on the JCMG Gmail account calendar that is linked to the Member's Only webpage. Please contact her if you would like something added.
Discussion	Date for Next Meeting: June 10, 2020 or as schedule allows.
Discussion	Thymes Deadline: May 29, 2020

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Committee Reports

Attended Displays: Chris Sedrel, Jackie Wellborn- Chris will make arrangements with Shannon to come into the office and continue organizing attended display materials.

Butterfly House at Fairgrounds: Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy – Project on hold contingent on County Fair 2020 decisions.

Coralville Historical School House: Cindy Parsons, **Recruiting new co-leadership.** – No additional report.

Demo Garden: Sharon Jeter, **Recruiting new co-leadership.** – Some JCMGs have been making progress planting and cleaning up in the gardens. The gardens are being planted for donation purposes this year contingent on County Fair 2020 decisions.

Downtown City Gardens: Linda Schreiber- Clean up and planting is occurring. Linda says it has been quiet, but things are moving along.

Ecumenical Towers: Michael Hesseltine, **Recruiting new co-leadership.** – Michael has been keeping an eye on things and will be coordinating a request for help to do some clean up (weeding and trash pickup). JCMGs are welcome to stop by to clean up but should contact Michael to coordinate and to get direction on any larger tasks.

Fairgrounds Beautification:

- *Rain Garden* - Lavon Yeggy – Chris mentioned she has been out working in the gardens. They will continue to check in with Lavon and work on things.
- *Fair Grounds Flower Beds* – Though things are quiet on the fairgrounds please continue to reach out to Barb and Joan to help keep things looking good especially for when restrictions loosen.

Firefighters' Memorial: Barb Schintler- No additional report.

Fundraising/Flea Market: Emil Rinderspacher, Darlene Clausen- Emil has been looking into possibilities and examples from other counties of online plant sales. He is researching in case needed as a possibility in the future.

Hortline: - Esther Retish, Pat Kealey– Carl & Mary Hensley have been working hard to answer hortline questions through the Gmail account. Esther is looking ahead for the possibility of manning the hortline once a week once the Extension office opens back up. Esther will reach out to check in with her hortline JCMGs to make sure they are doing well and will touch base with Sharon Jeter, so she knows who has been contacted. Mary Starry is a new MG Intern who has expressed interest in helping with the Hortline if needed.

Hospice Garden /Willow Creek Park: Melanie Hauptert- No additional report.

Steering Committee Chairs: Sharon Jeter, Doug Geraets- No additional report.

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JCMG Educational Training: Linda Schreiber, Jackie Wellborn, Doug Geraets - No Additional Report.

Memorial Garden: Lavon Yeggy, Doug Geraets- No Additional Report.

Johnson County Fair / 4 - H Buckets of Flowers, Scarecrow: Lavon Yeggy & Vicki Seifer- No additional report.

Oaknoll Garden Project: Vicki Siefers, Deb Cassell – Jo Benda has determined that the administration at Oaknoll will permit the Master Gardeners to return to helping as long as they stay outside and distance 6 feet from residents (prefer MG's to work alone) and use their own tools. I have notified the MG's of the policy and will let each person decide their comfort with that situation.

Plum Grove: Lavon Yeggy, Carolyn Murphy, Darlene Clausen, Betty Kelly, Joanne Leach- A few JCMGs have been carefully working in the gardens to keep them looking nice and progressing with planting vegetables. Might need to buy some new herbs. Using rugs in the pathways.

- **Plum Grove Taste of the Heritage Garden Event** July 8 CANCELLED
- **Plum Grove Tomato Taste Event** August 30 CANCELLED

Raptor Center Gardens: - Alice Linhart, Ann Tvedte – The Raptor Center is still closed. Ann and Alice reached out to their new contacts last week requesting permission to check on the gardens and we have not heard back.

Speakers Bureau: Jackie Wellborn- No Additional Report.

Social Events: –Beth Fisher, Lavon Yeggy- No Additional Report.

Thymes: Doug Geraets, Melissa Serenda- Please keep submitting articles including favorite tools etc. Melissa is monitoring events in the Thymes.

Treasurer: Jean Holzhammer- Note carried over as a reminder: Recommendation was to reevaluate the budget closer to July to be able to compare expenses versus need of fundraising. Please be cautious and frugal of your spending and repurpose as needed.

Volunteer Hours/Secretary/Fall Training Course: Shannon Bielicke- Note carried over as a reminder: Yes, we are still making plans for a 2020 Fall Master Gardener training course. Please encourage potential Master Gardeners to sign up on the state webpage. Information can be found at www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/news/how-become-johnson-county-master-gardener . Depending on the status of things this Fall the program may move to a fully online program rather than part online and part face-to-face however we will try to still have a quality program and adapt as the time comes. If they sign up on the state webpage they are not obligated to participate. It just gets me their information so I can keep them informed once time gets closer.

Submitted by Shannon Bielicke, meeting was from about 7-8:15pm