

## JCMG Steering Committee

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Hybrid Meeting

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to order at 6:32 P.M. (10/23 Quorum-No)

Present: Doug Geraets, Linda Schreiber, Chris Sedrel, Esther Retish, Jean Holzhammer, Jackie Wellborn, Melissa Serenda, Beth Fisher, Lavon Yeggy, Megan Garrels

Absent: Darlene Clausen, Emil Rinderspacher, Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy, Barb Schintler, Melanie Hauptert, Ann Rupenkamp, Vickie Siefers, Michael Hesseltine, Laurie Canady, Sharon Jeter, Marilou Gay, JoAnne Leach

Others present: Shannon Bielicke, Barb Robinson, Mary Hensley, Carl Hensley, Sharon Rude

#### 2. Approval of June 2022 meeting minutes - Jean Holtzhammer added to absent list; Cindy Parsons, Doug Parsons and Alice Linhart (no longer project coordinators) were removed from absent list; minutes approved with corrections.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

a. General Fund: **\$23,382.67**

b. Plum Grove: **\$1741.22**

c. Butterfly House: **\$3785.41**

d. New or Known Pending Receipts:

- *Expense:* Michael Hesseltine, MG General, Ecumenical Towers, Mulch, \$82.68
- *Expense:* Forever Green, Lucy Hershberger, MG Butterfly House, Butterflies, \$1,509.50
- *Expense:* Carolyn Murphy, MG Butterfly House, Fair supplies, \$18.48 and MG Plum Grove, Betty Kelly plaque and glue to attach plaque to bench, \$43.94 = Total \$62.42
- *Expense:* Linda Schreiber, MG Plum Grove, Plum Grove Heritage Party, Corn Salad supplies, \$9.54

e. Additional income which will show on reports next month:

- Income: MG Butterfly House, Butterfly House county fair income, \$1,890.41
- Income: MG Plum Grove, Plum Grove Heritage Party, \$978

Discussion: Linda requested a complete financial report with income and expenses to allow project coordinators to track expenses; Jean will provide at the next meeting.

#### **4. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar**

##### **a. September**

- Plan fundraising for upcoming year Lavon suggested that we consider partnering with local restaurant(s) for fund raiser (portion of sales donated to JCMG).
- Shannon pointed out that we should have a budget meeting prior to planning new fundraising events. We need to talk about ways to spend some of the money that was raised at the plant sale. Project leaders are encouraged to request reimbursement for expenditures.
- Finalize dates for MG activities in the coming year and create JCMG event bookmark. MG Continuing Education is set for March 5, 2023 (alt. March 19)
- Consider holding plant sale later next year (May 13) as compare to the day before Mother's Day. This would increase the maturity of harvested perennials.
- Fall Harvest Social & Potluck Sunday, September 18 works best to avoid conflict with the ICPL and UI football schedules as well as the availability of the Extension Office space. Beth and Shannon will look into the possibility of an outdoor event using the Heritage barn breezeway to set up the food tables. (Weather backup: Extension Office)

##### **b. October**

- Nominate steering committee officers Vice-chair
- Develop fiscal budget with project leaders. Project leaders asked to bring budget amounts and proposals to October steering committee meeting
- Review Bylaws. A separate committee will be formed to review bylaws and then report to the steering committee. A brief discussion regarding removing Buckets of Flowers off the approved project list occurred; no action was taken but the need for all approved projects to be reviewed in the future was noted.

#### **5. Extension Report/Announcements (Shannon)**

- a. Fairgrounds Ag. Assoc: John Isaacs is the current chair and our main contact person. Stephanie Glass is gone and a new office coordinator will be hired. Sean Zimmerman is the current groundskeeper.
- b. Fall MG Training Classes: The 1st class (orientation) will be August 22. Most classes will be online with 4 to 5 in-person classes. The schedule will be sent out soon. The on-campus class will be held once a year in the spring, so the fall class will participate then. Current MGs may be able to participate as well for a fee.

#### **6. Old Business**

- a. Iowa Raptor Project Gardens are no longer an approved core project due to a change in garden concept and lack of communication from staff. Ann Tvedt has stepped down as chair. MGs may still volunteer for non-core volunteer hours.

- b. Plant Sale & Flea Market financial wrap-up and survey: Emil hopes to have information available at the September meeting

## **7. New Business**

- a. Flea Market donations from MG Sherlyn Flesher: a large amount of garden items (3 to 4 pick-up loads) were donated and will be stored in the bunny barn west of the Heritage barn breezeway until May. Items need to be inventoried and values determined for next year's flea market.
- b. Keyless entry lock on the new Demo Garden shed: Chris, as project leader, will decide who has access. Shannon will have the code and keep a list of those who have it.

## **8. Project Reports**

- a. Plant Sale & Flea Market: We received a donation of pots from Project GREEN. They need to be inventoried and moved to the Demo Garden shed; Emil has requested assistance with this.
- b. Hortline: It's a busy time for the Hortline and Esther reports they could use help covering Monday & Thursday from 9-11 or 1-3.
- c. JC Fair/4-H Buckets of Flowers & Scarecrow: Lavon would like to restructure the competition to include age groups. A written proposal with recommendations will be presented to the steering committee so changes can be approved. A meeting with the 4-H coordinator (Bella) was also suggested.

## **9. Administrative Reports**

### **10. Adjourn (7:45pm)**

- a. Date of next meeting: **Sept. 14**
- b. Thymes Newsletter deadline: **Wednesday, Sept. 28**

## Project Reports

(submitted in advance of meeting)

- **Attend Displays** – During the Johnson County Fair 34 volunteers helped at the Attended Displays table. We handed out much information from ISU brochures on gardening and during the four days of the fair we answered many questions and the weather was terrific. Kay Mohling has stepped up & agreed to be a Co-Leader for Attended Displays (Yay!!).
- **Butterfly House** –
  - Training class was held on Saturday, July 23. Seventeen master gardener volunteers attended the class. Carolyn Murphy & Lucy Hershberger gave instructions on how we would operate the house and outside exhibits. We talked about the 10 varieties of native butterflies in the house, showed how to handle the monarch butterflies, their habitat in the Midwest and migration route. We talked about the addition of the Polyphemus moths that were being added to the exhibit.
  - 6,200 people attended the exhibit over the 4 days. Monarch Release on Wednesday, July 27 at 5 P.M. Released about 100 monarchs with a large crowd of speculators and master gardeners present. 39 Master Gardeners, Lucy & 2 of her staff, = 42 people staffed the 4-day event. Note: This was the smallest MG crew I had worked with but the most unified group. They helped setup, take down and worked together. People covered multiple shifts when needed.
  - Merchandise Sales – butterfly items, henna by Mahmooda, & tattoos = \$1,579. Free-will Donations = \$311.41. Deposited into Butterfly House account = \$1,890.41. Bills: Cost of butterflies– Michigan Native Butterfly Farm (10 native varieties) = \$1,509.50
  - Supplies – we are still submitting bills currently. Repairs include Millie the caterpillar tunnel needing a face lift and body repairs. We are brainstorming ideas to connect the hoops (structure) to a material that will fold up. This will make it easier to setup/take down. I will start restocking merchandise that we sold out of this year.
  - Represented Johnson County Master Gardeners July 9th at Monarch Festival, Indian Creek Nature Center. Carolyn & Angela Murphy partnered with Milkweed Matters to provide pollinator education & a seedball activity. We gave out ISU educational material and talked to visitors about monarch butterflies. Around 1000 in attendance.
- **Coralville Historical Schoolhouse** – no report
- **Ecumenical Towers** – Michael reports a mid-summer clean-up day was held last weekend. Only one person on his email list showed up. He believes this was poor timing as the Johnson County Fair was in progress. John Weeg and he worked to do a lot of clean up and spread mulch to protect against the August heat to come. The beds are looking really good! GOOD NEWS: John Weeg has expressed interest in becoming co-leader of ET! Once John officially joins as co-leader we will begin doing some more interesting and involved updates to the site. We will work with the facility leadership and residents to ensure we collaborating.

- **Demo Garden** – Work sessions continue to be **Tuesdays at 5 p.m.** We will be installing a push button lock for the shed and hangers to organize stored items. Cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers are coming on now. We are harvesting and will begin planting some late crops (beets, green or wax beans) this past week. Cut flower bouquets will be sold this Sunday, Aug. 14 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Garden.
- **Downtown City Projects** - walking tour/open house: Heat that was expected last week didn't materialize. Instead of working, we dodged raindrops and led colleagues on a walking tour/open house of the downtown gardens. MG guests learned the history, how the project has evolved and about the redesign efforts.
  - A special highlight on the tour was a stop at Ecumenical Tower Gardens to learn about the vision for the gardens. The tour was led by John Weeg for a vacationing Michael Hesseltine.
  - Another feature of the downtown walking tour/open house was a peek at University of Iowa arborist Andy Dahl's special conifer garden on the east side of Halsey Gym.
  - Though the turnout wasn't very big, it was a great opportunity for MG to learn about Downtown City Gardens. MG are encouraged to hop on the walking tour/open house next year.
- **Fairgrounds Landscaping** –
  - Rain Garden: Doing well with annuals coming up & over 7 different flowering plants: spiderwort, salvia hyssop, golden alexander, blue flag iris, and others. We will be expanding stone pathways soon.
  - Fairgrounds Flower Beds
- **Firefighters Memorial** – no report
- **Plant Sale & Flea Market** – Emil is working on Plant Sale final report with plans to have it for September meeting. Project GREEN has donated their pots to us and one load has been moved and stored in Demo Garden shed. Emil will need help with another load and the inventory.
- **Hortline** – no report
- **Hospice Garden at Willow Creek** – no report
- **JC Fair/4-H Buckets of Flowers & Scarecrow** – no report
- **Oaknoll Garden Project** – no report
- **Plum Grove** –
  - Project Green City Wide Garden Tours, July 9 & 10 (PG event) 24 people signed the guest list left on the bench for self-guided tour of the gardens. Alex McKendree, director of JC Historical Society, had 67 people sign the book in the house.
  - Taste of the Heritage Garden celebrated 25th anniversary, July 13. It was also a time to remember Betty Kelly's accomplishments. The Kelly family donated a cedar garden bench which has been placed by Grandma's Flower & Rose Garden. A plaque was made by Harry's Trophy in memory of Betty and per her family, they would use to continue the tradition of adding names of those that pass to the bench. Paying guests (145), Post Office Brass Band (5 members), and JC Master Gardeners (62) participating in the Taste of the Heirloom Garden &

Remembering Betty Kelly. A total of 81 cookbooks which included a section on Betty Kelly & Plum Grove history were sold. Collected a total of \$978 (Included two generous donations). The Post Office Brass Band was given a donation of \$150.00 for playing at the event.

- **Raptor Center Gardens** – Email to Ryan Anthony, Director of Iowa Raptor Project drafted and sent indicating we will de-certify Project from our approved projects list.
- **Speakers Bureau** - no report
- **Thymes** – no report; Thymes Blog – July stats: 161 views by 84 visitors. 3 posts published.