

## Johnson Co. MASTER GARDENER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7pm, Zoom Meeting

### JCMG Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to order (14/23 Quorum-Yes)

**Present:** Linda Schreiber, Chris Sedrel, Esther Retish, Jean Holzhammer, Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy, Vickie Siefers, Ann Tvedte, Jackie Wellborn, Beth Fisher, Lavon Yeggy, Michael Hesseltine, Melissa Serenda, Sharon Jeter

**Not Present:** Doug Geraets, Darlene Clausen, Emil Rinderspacher, Cindy Parsons, Barb Schintler, Melanie Hauptert, Ann Ruppenkamp, Alice Linhart, Doug Parsons

**Others Present:** Shannon Bielicke, Laurie Canady, Mary Hensley, Carl Hensley, Megan Garrels

**Others Not Present:** Betty Kelly, Joanne Leach, Marilou Gay

#### 1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – Unanimously approved. Sharon 1<sup>st</sup>, Ann 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

- a. General Fund: \$8,385.04 Balance
- b. Plum Grove: \$ 1204.59 Balance
- c. Butterfly House: \$2167.04 Balance
- d. New or Known Pending Receipts:

Linda Schreiber, \$15 Seed Share Seed Shipping Cost, Master Gardener General - Approved.

Linda Schreiber's budget increase request for the Downtown City Gardens explained below in her project update. Increased to \$500 was approved.

#### 3. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar (Located in Bylaws)

##### February

- Review approved core applications- Subcommittee has 3 proposals that are being reviewed and combined in order to bring 1 as a suggestion to the steering committee, tabled until the subcommittee and further review and narrow it down.
- Annual Winter Awards Meeting & Potluck- Awards will be mailed again this year with recognition in the Thymes Newsletter with hopes of an in-person gathering later in the year.
- Yearly Reports & Past Year Summary Notes; Roster (*in process*); Project Hours Summary (*done presented at previous meeting*), JCMG State Rank (*have not seen this published yet*), Project Report Yearly Summary (*posted on the Master Gardener webpage*)- progress noted in italics.
- Prep for Seed Share (March) – No public event this year. Companies that typically donate are prioritizing donations to Food Pantries. JCMGs will do so as well.
- Prep for Education Sunday (March) – Registration is available for the event in-person on March 6 and can be watched Live on Facebook and through the City Channel 4 YouTube Channel
- Plum Grove Gardens Seed Selection Meeting – Darlene is coordinating with project leaders via email.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. Project Review procedures- Subcommittee has 3 proposals that are being reviewed and combined in order to bring 1 as a suggestion to the steering committee, tabled until the subcommittee and further review and narrow it down.

5. New Business

- a. Change in Project Leader for Raptor Center & Coralville School House- Alice Linhart is stepping down as co-chair of the Raptor Center. Ann Tvedte has been doing a great job and will let us know if she is needing a new co-leader.
- b. In-person or Zoom meetings- There is mixed thoughts on this. Good reasons presented for both. Health safety, travel time, good in-person connection, etc. The committee will be surveyed including preference and start time (6pm instead of 7pm). Suggestions included hybrid meetings and outside walk & talk meetings. Interest in meeting at various project sites.

6. Additional Topics

- a. Linn Co. Garden Fair is being advertised.
- b. Second Sunday Garden Forum is going on.
- c. Fall and Winter state lead virtual educational opportunities are being offered. Shannon will look into if reshow options are available.
- d. Scarecrow & Buckets of Flowers were both approved to be offered at the Johnson County Fair this year.
- e. It was announced that Jo Verts former JCMG has passed away. A friend of Jo's stopped into the office to ask about donating money on her behalf. The Memorial garden that has been a work in progress needs revisited.
- f. Linda found notes that the JCMG steering committee was started in August 1992.

7. Adjourn (Meeting time 7-8pm)

- a. Date of Next Meeting: March 9, 2022
- b. Thymes Newsletter Deadline: February 25, 2022

**Project Updates:**

**Attended Displays: Chris Sedrel, Jackie Wellborn-** We have not yet started getting our Attended Displays boxes in order and ready for the coming season. That chore should be completed by the end of February.

**Butterfly House at Fairgrounds: Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy-** working on details for the silent auction to be held during the plant sale & flea market in May.

**Coralville Historical School House: Cindy Parsons, Doug Parsons-** The Historic Coralville Schoolhouse gardens needs a new chairperson; due to family commitments Doug and Cindy cannot head this up any longer. We can probably still work there occasionally, but not on a regular basis. I would be willing to transition with a new person to show him/her the ropes, etc.

**Ecumenical Towers: Michael Hesseltine, Recruiting new co-leader. –** Nothing new on the ET site.

**Demo Garden: Ann Ruppenkamp, Chris Sedrel –** Continuing to work on planning for the year.

**Downtown City Projects Linda Schreiber -** Request to increase the budget to \$500 for 2022. After 10-plus years of cannas and daylilies on the south side garden of Capital Street Parking Garage, we had planned to update the garden with perennial torch lilies and grasses and avoid the cost of planting sweet potato ivy each spring. However, costs were too high for the existing budget. After

discussing the design with Iowa City Park staff and an interest to update the garden to incorporate a *perennial movement design* to complement other downtown gardens, the design was changed. We will use *Heliopsis* and *Andropogon gerardii* Blackhawk grass plugs and cover a greater area than originally planned. We were also able to order plant plugs through the city and reimburse them for the costs, which are greater than the \$300 approved.

**Fair Grounds Rain Garden & Flower Beds: Chris Sedrel & Lavon Yeggy-** Lavon said that they will be ordering a few seeds for the rain garden and that planning discussions of the year have started. Megan Garrels is going to step up to help with the rain garden.

**Firefighters' Memorial: Barb Schintler** - Nothing new from the Fire Fighters Memorial

**Fundraising/Flea Market: Emil Rinderspacher, Darlene Clausen** - The Plant Sale Planning Committee has resumed its work in preparation for the Sale and Flea Market on Sat. May 7. At our January meeting, we reviewed all the work we did in early 2020 before the shutdown. We now have a project calendar to guide our planning and work. Working documents are now being published on the Plant Sale web page at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/jcmg-plant-sale-flea-market>. Our next planning meeting is Wed. Feb 23 from 7-8:30pm via Zoom.

**Hortline: Esther Retish** - Hortline continues through the winter which not as busy as spring, summer and fall.

**Hospice Garden at Willow Creek Park: Melanie Hauptert** - will order some new hostas for the park soon. I am planning to begin a more consistent watering routine after we begin work for 2022; watering the plants every week unless we have had at least 1 inch of rain. We will not be at the park until late in April.

**Master Gardener Educational Training: – Linda Schreiber, Jackie Wellborn, Doug Geraets** - We are planning an in-person program on Sunday, March 6, 1:30 - 4 p.m., *Perennial Movement Design: the Role of Native Plants*, Tyler Baird, Iowa City Park Superintendent; *What's Wrong With My Tree?*, Mike Anderson, Linn County Master Gardener; *Grow Johnson County Improves Food Access*, Jason Grimm, Executive Director, and Clare Zabel, Food and Farm Specialist. Attendees are urged to follow COVID-19 precaution guidelines to wear a face mask. If you are unable to wear a face mask, please consider watching the program on our Facebook page, City Channel 4 or on our YouTube channel at a later date. Master Gardeners will be asked to sign-up to attend as seating will be limited. The alternate program date is March 20.

**Johnson County Fair / 4-H Buckets of Flowers, Scarecrow: Lavon Yeggy, Vicki Siefers** – Scarecrow & Buckets of Flowers were both approved to be offered at the Johnson County Fair this year.

**Oaknoll Garden Project: Marilou Gay, Vicki Siefers, Deb Cassell** - Jo Benda has sent out the list of annuals for residents to order for their gardens. The Oaknoll gardeners last had a group meeting in October of 2019 when they had the annual thank you luncheon. The group has not been able to gather since then, but individual gardeners continue to help their Oaknoll pals in a solitary fashion. I am hopeful we can weather this and have a group gathering this spring or summer, otherwise I have concerns about holding the group together. Vicki Siefers

**Plum Grove: Lavon Yeggy, Carolyn Murphy, Darlene Clausen, Betty Kelly, Joanne Leach**- We have 2 volunteer openings in Grandma's Heirloom Garden due to illness. If you know any MG looking for an area to care for on regular basis and likes heirloom flowers or wants to learn about them, let Carolyn know. Darlene and Carolyn are collecting a list of seeds to order. Darlene has offered to place the orders. The fence repairs in the vegetable garden will be a priority as soon as the weather permits. Darlene, Carolyn & Lavon

**Raptor Center Gardens: Ann Tvedte, Alice Linhart** – Change in Project Leader for Raptor Center Alice is stepping down. No change for the raptor center, cleaned out the beds again and put down landscape fabric to reduce the volunteer nonnative plants. Planted some gathered seeds. Plan to gather more plants in the spring and through the summer to establish a garden based on the remnant at MRNA.

**Speakers Bureau: Jackie Wellborn** - On February 3rd Emil Rinderspacher will do a presentation on perennials at the Solon Public Library for the University of Iowa Womens Club. Contact person Alexis Kurth. With Emil creating this presentation from photos of his own gardens we will have a local talk we hopefully can borrow from Emil if we need one.

Alexis Kurth has also asked us to do three more presentations Spring-Summer-Fall. The first one will be March 11 on seed starting and what to plant. Linda Schreiber and Jackie Wellborn will do that presentation. The summer one does not have a date or topic but we are thinking it will be about summer flowers. The fall one will be about harvesting and taking down the gardens. No date for that one yet.

If anyone is wanting to get involved with the summer or fall presentations, please let me know.

**Social Events: Beth Fisher** – Nothing at this time.

**Thymes: Doug Geraets, Melissa Serenda** - As readers can appreciate, we have continued to receive excellent article submissions for the newsletter. The addition of Hortline Q/A has been a new feature and hopefully well received.

For the blog (established and maintained by Melissa at [jcmg-thymes.com](http://jcmg-thymes.com)), three articles were posted from the *Thymes* in December and no new articles in January. December 2021 had 88 views from 63 visitors; January 2022 had 95 views from 39 visitors. Most of that traffic came from sharing the articles on the JCMG Facebook page, but we also had people accessing the Blog from the Extension website or by way of a general web search.

#### **Additional Notes:**

**Seed Share** - During the pandemic, proprietary seed companies have indicated they are focusing on community gardens. With a very limited number of seed packets received to date (125-ish), should JCMG do the same? In past years we had more than 1,000 packets to offer gardeners. Linda Schreiber \*Brianna Montross our county Healthy Food Access specialist was suggested as a food pantry resource contact.

**40th Anniversary** - Discovering the names of early project leaders as the review of old issues of the *Thymes* newsletters continues. Linda Schreiber