

JCMG Steering Committee

Wednesday, June 20, 2023, 6:30 P.M., Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

7. **Call to order 6:32 P.M.** (16/24 Quorum=yes)

Present:

Doug Geraets, Chair
Jackie Wellborn, Vice-Chair, Yard and Garden Information
Jean Holzhammer, Treasurer
Barb Robinson, Secretary
Melissa Serenda, Thymes
Emil Rinderspacher, Plant Sale & Flea Market
Chris Sedrel, Demo Garden, Fairgrounds Beautification
Laurie Roehl, Demo Garden, Fairgrounds Beautification
Megan Garrels, Speakers Bureau
Kay Mohling, Yard and Garden Information
Karen Martinek, Coralville Schoolhouse
Beth Fisher, Social Events
John Weeg, Ecumenical Tower
Darlene Clausen, Plum Grove, Plant Sale & Flea Market
Linda Schreiber, Downtown City Gardens
Michael Hesseltine, Ecumenical Tower

Absent:

Lavon Yeggy, Plum Grove Gardens, Buckets of Flowers, 4H Scarecrows
Carolyn Murphy, Plum Grove Gardens, Butterfly House
Mary Starry, Hortline
Barb Schlintler, Firefighters Memorial
Melanie Hauptert, Hospice Garden
Vickie Siefers, Oaknoll
Mike Murphy, Butterfly House
Sharon Jeter, Past Chair

Others present: Shannon Bielicke, Laurie Canady

8. **Approval of May 2023 meeting minutes** - approved without corrections

9. **Treasurer's Report**

a. General Fund: **\$39,159.80**

- Income: \$440.00 from Mary Lou Gay memorial gifts
 - Income: \$ 15,595.05 from Plant Sale
 - Expenses: \$225.30 for Plant Sale
- b. Plum Grove: **\$1,395.73** (no change from last month)
- c. Butterfly House: **\$4,907.92**
- Income: \$1,558.50 from Plant Sale and \$100.00 donation
- d. New or known pending receipts:
- Alice Linhart, \$36.45, MG General, Speakers Bureau, supplies for seed starting class
 - Laurie Roehl, \$46.98, MG General, Fairgrounds Flower Beds, plants
 - Laurie Roehl, \$77.27, MG General, Fairgrounds Flower Beds, plants
 - Laurie Roehl, \$110.10, includes: MG General, Plant Sale, supplies (\$90.24) + MG General, Demo Garden, plants (\$19.86)
 - Laurie Roehl, \$22.86, MG General, Fairgrounds Flower Beds, seeds
 - Carolyn Murphy, \$23.80, MG Butterfly House, supplies
 - Carolyn Murphy, \$172.22, MG Plum Grove, seeds & hoses for Plum Grove gardens
 - Jean Holzhammer, \$59.28, MG General, Plant Sale, supplies
 - Linda Schrieber, \$37.09, MG General, Downtown City Gardens, fertilizer
 - Barb Robinson, \$43.93, MG Plum Grove, plants
- e. Discussion
- Jean will provide balances since the 1st of the year for each project at the August meeting.
 - Shannon encouraged project coordinators who have needs that are not met by current project budgets to bring requests to the Steering Committee so that we can be good stewards of the money we have raised.

10. **Extension Report/Announcements** (Shannon)

- a. Taste of Heritage Garden at Plum Grove (July 12, 5:30–7 P.M.):
- Old Post Office Brass Band, \$150 honorarium, approved unanimously.

- Dane's Dairy ice cream cups (\$1/cup), \$200-\$225 approved unanimously.
 - Event promotion, Linda Schreiber generally needs information a month in advance for advertising. Since there is limited time, Beth suggested KCJJ and Melissa suggested using Social Media. Linda will look into using NextDoor. Carolyn notes that we will need to contact Judy Nyren of the Lucas Farms Neighborhood group to promote the event on their social media. Also, Alex, the Plum Grove director is aware of the event date.
 - Barb Schintler is in charge of paper supplies (plates, tablecloths, etc.), some of which we have on hand and some will be purchased at Sam's Club or Aero Rental.
 - Doug is in charge of coordinating a team to transport tables and chairs from the fairgrounds.
 - Beth has scheduled a menu planning meeting at the Extension Office June 29 at 6:30 P.M. She requested a list of what is planted in the vegetable garden.
 - Beth will compile a recipe booklet for the event. Carolyn would like to include photos of past events in the booklet. Linda suggested that we also dedicate a page to promoting the Tomato Taste. We will need MG help to copy and staple for 3 to 4 hours at the Extension Office. Shannon will send an invitation to MG to help before and during the event.
- b. Fair Volunteer Sign-Up Genius will be sent out soon. (3 separate sign-ups)
- Butterfly House
 - Demo Garden Guides
 - Yard & Garden Information + Buckets of Flowers & Scarecrows
- c. Growing Together Grant Update
- There was a garden installation event using hugelkultur. Tomato plants, soil, pots and instruction were provided for interested attendees.
 - The Yard & Garden Information group would like to acquire materials in Spanish and French to accommodate foreign speakers.
- d. Fairgrounds Manager Update
- Tim Rogers is no longer employed by the Fairgrounds. The new manager (Tammy) will be on site 3 days/week.

e. Fall training scholarships

- Historically Johnson County has offered 50% of the \$195 fee to qualified candidates. It is possible that the State will also contribute - details to come. Shannon suggested that JCMG might also consider offering additional funds.

f. Signs for Demo Garden

- John Weeg has suggested that we get some metal signs that could be reused year to year. He has quotes for two signs at \$78 each, one for hügelkultur project in the Demo Garden and one for the Ecumenical Tower gardens. Two metal signs were approved unanimously, totaling up to \$200.
- Other signs are needed to explain the different techniques used in the Demo Garden this year. They would include Companion Planting, Square ft. Gardening, etc. Laminated specific vegetable signs can be made at no added cost.
- Doug suggested that we think about getting weatherproof JCMG signs designating "JCMG maintained" for each of our projects. Shannon will look into getting these from ISU with logo.

g. Mulch Session @ Fairgrounds & Demo Garden

- Chris and Shannon are working on getting mulch moved to beds. Volunteers will then be requested to help spread the mulch.

h. Weeding Session at ISU Extension Office

- Chris will let Shannon know if the Fairgrounds group needs help with this.

11. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar (Doug)

a. July - no steering committee meeting

- July 12 Taste of Heritage Gardens, Plum Grove
- Johnson County 4-H & FFA Fair July 23 - 26; Butterfly House training July 22
- Prep for Fall Harvest Meeting & Potluck October 1: Set-up at 4:30, dinner at 5:00 P.M.. There will not be a speaker. There was some discussion of having a quiz or game, but no decision was made.
- Shannon is working on some ideas for fall activities (leadership retreat, Kirkwood Horticulture tour, flower arranging, etc) Although

there was interest in the Kirkwood tour no decision was made because fall is already a busy time.

b. August

- Tomato Taste at Plum Grove is scheduled for Sept. 9 which is the ISU/UI football game. It was decided to reschedule to Thursday, Aug. 31, 6:00–7:30 P.M. Backup date is Thursday, Sept. 7. There will not be a speaker.

c. September

- Plan fundraising for upcoming year: Emil is working on reserving the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 11, 2024 for Plant Sale & Flea Market.
- Finalize dates for MG activities in the coming year and post an events calendar on the MG website and Facebook page.
- Flower fundraiser will not be held this year because the zinnias have not germinated in the Demo Garden.
- Final preparation for Fall Harvest Social & Potluck (October 1)

6. New Business

a. Seed Share 2023 (Linda)

- A generous donation of seed packets revived Seed Share 2023 with a partnership with Lowe's. Distribution of seed packets to area food pantries to benefit food-insecure persons and Johnson County community seed libraries started via a partnership with Table to Table. In July, a T2T/Americore program with neighborhood centers will offer neighbors seeds for fall gardening opportunities.
- Delivered to Table to Table were 17 boxes of seeds (102 lbs).
- There may be a JCMG opportunity to host seed-starting workshops at food pantries through the Speakers Bureau. This could include photos and testimonials from clients.
- Lowe's has said that there will be another donation next year.

b. JCMG Continuing Education 2024 (Linda)

- Invitations to speak at the JCMG CE program on March 3, 2024, (alternate date: March 24) were sent on June 5. A Cedar Rapids-based landscape architect was the first to respond affirmatively. Additional invitations were sent for Project GREEN Winter Garden

Forums held on the second Sunday in January, February and March.

- Jackie suggested that another presentation on Prairie Restoration would be welcome as it was the topic of most questions at the plant sale. Linda said that maybe we could set up a tour at Williams Prairie (near Oxford).
- Melissa and Beth reminded us that recordings of previous presentations are available on the JCMG Facebook page and the Library YouTube Channel.

c. New JCMG Project Request

- Karen reported that Two Horse Farm in Johnson County is interested in becoming a JCMG project.
- Shannon explained that we can't take on new projects as recognized "core" projects until they have been a non-core project for some time, provide education, and are approved by the Steering Committee. If MGs want to help in non-core projects they should log hours as "other" under the Location tab.

7. Old Business

a. 2023 Plant Sale and Flea Market financial summary

- Gross Income: \$17,530
- Emil presented spreadsheets of Expenses, Income, and Plants sold by type and price.
 - Expenses: \$1872.61 (of which \$648.08 were one-time expenses)
 - Plant Sale income: \$15,971
 - Silent Auction income: \$1,559
 - Hills Bank sponsorship: \$1000

b. 2024 Plant Sale planning

- We need more people from outside JCMG to help. We tried unsuccessfully to recruit 4-H groups to help take purchases to cars. Shannon said maybe we can find a way to offer reimbursement for their involvement with the sale.
- In discussion with Carolyn, Emil suggested that perhaps the Silent Auction is no longer necessary and any funds needed for the

Butterfly house come from the MG General Fund. There was no discussion at this time.

- Emil will be getting together with the various plant sale groups to begin planning for next year.

8. Administrative Reports & Announcements (see Extension Report)

9. Adjourn (8:14 P.M.)

a. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, August 9**

b. Thymes Newsletter Deadline: **Wednesday, June 28**

Taste of Heritage Gardens at Plum Grove

July 12, 5:30–7 P.M. (less than a month away!)

- **Old Post Office Brass Band** – I have received confirmation. They will play for the evening.
 - **To do:** decide on a donation amount. (We donated \$150. Last year).

- **Dane's Dairy Ice Cream cups** – This is a big hit at the tasting. Donna Dane has not offered to donate the ice cream. I checked with the dairy, and it is \$1 a cup. Several combinations we can get. Suggest we order 200 - 225 cups and pay for them this year. I will continue to try and reach Donna to see if she will come and bring her freezer for the night.

- **Promoting the event** – Linda Schreiber asked to help. We will need to contact Judy Nyren, Lucas Farms Neighborhood group to promote on their social media. Alex, PG director, is aware of date and event.

- **Barb Schintler** – I will contact her to count paper supplies and see what we need to buy, tablecloths, plates, etc. We usually make a trip to Sam's in CR; they have white tablecloth on a large roll (less expensive). The purple is bought at Aero Rental.

- **Moving tables/chairs;** Doug is coordinating. The fairgrounds manager has the event on the calendar (thank you Shannon).

- **Food—check with Beth Fisher.** See if she has a date set for planning the menu. After Beth has the recipe booklet compiled; we will need a few people to help copy and staple it. Does take 3-4 hours to do this at the extension.

- If anyone has pictures of last year's Taste of Heritage Gardens at Plum Grove event or garden pictures that we can add to the recipe book this year forward to Carolyn.

Carolyn Murphy