

**JCMG Steering Committee**  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6:30 P.M., Hybrid Meeting

**Minutes**

1. **Call to order 6:39 P.M.** (16/23 Quorum - yes)

**Present:**

Doug Geraets, Chair  
Jackie Wellborn, Vice-Chair, Yard and Garden Information  
Barb Robinson, Secretary  
Melissa Serenda, Thymes  
Lavon Yeggy, Plum Grove Gardens, Buckets of Flowers, 4H Scarecrows  
Carolyn Murphy, Plum Grove Gardens, Butterfly House  
Mike Murphy, Butterfly House  
Michael Hesseltine, Ecumenical Tower  
John Weeg, Ecumenical Tower  
Chris Sedrel, Demo Garden, Fairgrounds Beautification  
Laurie Roehl, Demo Garden, Fairgrounds Beautification  
Megan Garrels, Speakers Bureau  
Mary Starry, Hortline  
Kay Mohling, Yard and Garden Information  
Karen Martinek, Coralville Schoolhouse  
Beth Fisher, Social Events

**Absent:**

Jean Holzhammer, Treasurer  
Emil Rindersbacher, Plant Sale & Flea Market  
Darlene Clausen, Plum Grove, Plant Sale & Flea Market  
Linda Schreiber, Downtown City Gardens  
Barb Schlintler, Firefighters Memorial  
Melanie Hauptert, Hospice Garden  
Vickie Siefers, Oaknoll

Others present: Shannon Bielicke, Laurie Canady, Mary Hensley, Carl Hensley

2. **Approval of November 2022 meeting minutes** - tentatively approved pending any corrections sent to Doug Geraets

3. **Treasurer's Report**

- a. General Fund: **\$23,476.36**
- b. Plum Grove: **\$1,395.73**
- c. Butterfly House: **\$4,026.42**

d. New or Known Pending Receipts:

- *Kirkwood Scholarship Request*: \$2000 (MG General), unanimously approved Amount includes two \$1000 scholarships for local students with an interest in horticulture. Jackie brought up the possibility of increasing the contribution. Shannon will follow up with Kirkwood regarding interest and need.
- *Donation*: \$100 from Robert & Carole Leher in Memory of Aunt Irene Dunbar to be used for the Hospice Garden
- *Reimbursement*: Carolyn Murphy (MG General) Fairgrounds Raingarden Seeds, \$7.41
- *Reimbursement*: IDALS Nursery Dealer Certificate (MG General), Plant Sale, certificate to sell woody plant material, \$25
- *Pre-approved*: Vacker Inc. (MG Butterfly House) Pollinator Sign, \$777.00 Carolyn reported that the sign has arrived.

4. **Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar** (Doug)

a. March

- *Continuing Education 2023* was held Sunday March 5. The event was recorded for the YouTube City Channel 4. Links have been sent via email to registrants and will be published in the Thymes.
- *Annual Awards Meeting and Potluck* will be held Sunday, March 26 at the Extension Office with set-up and social hour beginning at 4pm followed by dinner. Awards will be presented during dinner and there will be a time set aside for project leader to talk about volunteer opportunities. A request has been sent for food items to be brought by last name. It was agreed that a reminder would be sent a week before the event.
- *Seed Share* will not be held due to proprietary seed companies donating to community gardens.
- *JCMG volunteer sign-up*, Shannon has sent volunteer sign-up lists to project coordinators who should be sending out project information.

b. April

- *Plant Sale digs and potting sessions*, Emil is working on Sign-up Genius for 4 sessions in March and April. There will be a meeting of the Plant Sale & Flea Market planning committee on Wed. March 29, 7:00 - 8:30pm.
- *Prep for Johnson County Fair*; project schedules, 4-H County Fair Award Sponsorships & Fair book Section review (July), Planning is underway and CYCs (county youth coordinators) will be making requests.
- *Spring garden cleanups* (coordinators encouraged to establish a cleanup date and to communicate with volunteers)
- Prep for July 12 Taste of Heritage Gardens at Plum Grove; Seeds have been ordered and have arrived.
- Prep for Taste of Heritage Gardens at Plum Grove planning, Set date for meeting in May.

c. May

- *Taste of Heritage Garden at Plum Grove menu planning meeting*,
- *Plant Sale & Flea Market, May 20, 2023, Carolyn and Chris reminded us to be thinking about providing donations for the Silent Auction and the Gift Table.*
- *Prep for the Tomato Taste at Plum Grove, A date has not yet been set for the event.*

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

- a. Shannon has a new title: ANR (Ag & Natural Resources) Program Coordinator. She will no longer be at the front desk. The new office will have two extra desks—one for Shannon and one for HortLine. Additional storage space is being made for MG items in the large storage room. The extension office will be receiving updates including new paint and office furniture. Patience during this transition is appreciated.
- b. Jillian has been hired as a marketing associate and will be housed at the front desk. Kamryn will be starting in mid-May as a second 4-H County Youth Coordinator.
- c. The Fair Board is in transition. Shannon will make sure that new people are aware of the MOU (memo of understanding) which contains the agreements between the board and Johnson County Extension and JCMG.
- d. There is no Fairgrounds groundskeeper at this time.

- e. There is a fruit tree (apple) grafting class with Patrick O'Malley on April 4. A \$40 registration fee covers the cost of root stock. Each registrant may take home two grafted trees. NOTE: due to bad weather, this workshop was rescheduled to April 10.

## 6. New Business

- a. Fairgrounds Beautification (Raingarden and flower beds) coordinator update (Chris)
  - o Chris read a prepared letter describing her concerns about the designation of co-coordinator for this project. There was discussion about whether the Raingarden will be considered part of Fairgrounds Beautification.

## 7. Old Business

- a. JCMG Bylaws review discussion & voting
  - o Appendix B.2, Shannon presented the following proposal for determining the number of voting members of the Steering Committee:
    - There are 23 voting members. Quorum = 12+; no individual gets more than one vote.
    - Each project can only have two voting members (primary coordinator & secondary coordinator) with the exception of Plum Grove which has three garden project leaders. The two Plum Grove events fall as subcommittees of that project. If individuals decide to step up to take lead of the two Plum Grove events and come to the steering committee meetings on a regular basis the steering committee members will revisit and take a vote on whether to add them back in as individual projects rather than subcommittee status under Plum Grove. If any projects (except Plum Grove) have only a primary coordinator and would add a secondary coordinator, the secondary coordinator must be present at a steering committee meeting and have their name added to the minutes as joining the project (no vote required). Fairgrounds Beautification (Chris & Laurie) and Rain Garden (Lavon) will be considered 2 separate projects.
    - Projects will be reviewed at a later date. As part of that review if a project changes status from Core to Other then the status of that project's leaders changes as well.
    - It was moved and seconded that we vote to accept the proposal.
    - 13 yes, 3 no, motion passed

- Attached is now the most up to date list of voting JCMG steering committee members. Names in bold are voting members. Names highlighted in grey are repeated names noted but do not get a second vote.

## 8. Administrative Reports

- a. Beth announced the ICPL Houseplant Swap Sat. Apr 8 at 1:00 P.M. Bring plants at 1P.M. and trading begins 1/2 hour later.
- b. Carolyn announced an Earthweek butterfly event at Weber Elementary Apr. 18.

## 9. Adjourn (8:17 pm)

- a. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, Apr. 12**
- b. Thymes Newsletter Deadline: **Friday, Mar. 24**

**Voting Memers of the JCMG Steering Committee (23 members)**

Quorum = 12+; no individual gets more than one vote. Projects can only have two voting members (Coordinator and co-coordinator) with exception of Plum Grove has three garden project leaders and the two Plum Grove Events fall as subcommittee of that project and under Plum Grove. **Bold** names are voting members and grey names are duplicates and don't count for a second vote.

Chair (2022-23) Executive .....	<b>Doug Geraets</b>
Vice-Chair (2022-23) Executive .....	<b>Jackie Wellborn</b>
Secretary, Executive.....	<b>Barb Robinson</b>
Treasurer Executive .....	<b>Jean Holzhammer</b>
Social Events .....	<b>Beth Fisher</b>
Thymes .....	<b>Melissa Serenda</b>
Coralville Schoolhouse .....	<b>Karen Martinek</b>
Downtown City Gardens .....	<b>Linda Schreiber</b>
HortLine .....	<b>Mary Starry</b>
Willow Creek Park Hospice Garden .....	<b>Melanie Hauptert</b>
Speakers Bureau .....	<b>Megan Garrels</b>
Firefighters Memorial.....	<b>Barb Schintler</b>
Scarecrow Contest & Buckets of Flowers.....	<b>Lavon Yeggy</b>
Oaknoll Retirement Residence .....	<b>Vickie Siefers</b>
Plant Sale & Flea Market .....	<b>Emil Rindersbacher</b>
Yard and Garden Information .....	<b>Jackie Wellborn, Kay Mohling</b>
Ecumenical Towers .....	<b>Michael Hesseltine, John Weeg</b>
Plum Grove Grandma's Flower Garden .....	<b>Carolyn Murphy</b>
Plum Grove Vegetable Garden.....	<b>Darlene Clausen</b>
Plum Grove Wildflower Garden .....	<b>Lavon Yeggy</b>
Plum Grove Taste of the Heritage Garden .....	Subcommittee directed
Plum Grove Tomato Taste.....	Subcommittee directed
Butterfly House .....	<b>Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy</b>
Demonstration Garden .....	<b>Chris Sedrel, Laurie Roehl</b>
Fairgrounds Gardens.....	Chris Sedrel, Laurie Roehl
Rain Garden .....	Lavon Yeggy

**Approved March 15, 2023**