

JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to order
2. Approval of **Sept. 13** Meeting Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report (Jean)
 - General Fund: **\$34,680.79**
 - ☐ *No change from last month*
 - Plum Grove: **\$649.26**
 - ☐ Expense: 324.73
 - Butterfly House: **\$4,579.70**
 - ☐ *No change from last month*
 - New or Known Pending Receipts: (as of Oct. 10)
4. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar (Doug)
 - **October**
 - ☐ Nominate steering committee officers
 - ☐ Develop fiscal budget with project leaders
 - **November**
 - ☐ Approve fiscal budget
 - ☐ Approve steering committee officers
 - ☐ MG project brochure review
 - ☐ Reporting hours reminder
 - **December** – no steering committee meeting
5. Extension Report/Announcements (Shannon)
 - Update on MG training sessions
 - Update on Growing Together Grant
6. Old Business
 - Vote on Bylaws Revisions

- Vote on Solon Public Library as approved project

7. New Business

- Use of *consent agenda* at future meetings (with one motion for minutes, treasurer's report, calendar)
- Develop 2024 fiscal budget for projects
- Introduction of candidates for Vice-Chair

8. Administrative Reports

- JCMG Project Coordinator Description & Responsibilities document

9. Adjourn

- Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, Nov. 8**
- November Thymes Newsletter Deadline: **Friday, Oct. 27**

Project Reports

(submitted in advance of meeting)

- **Yard & Garden Information** – no report
- **Butterfly House** – no report
- **Coralville Historical Schoolhouse** – There is not much new to report with the garden. We had a scheduled work day on Monday Sept. 25 in which beds were weeded and we planted some iris bulbs. We are planning a work day at the end of October or early November to thin hostas, replant in other areas and deadhead flowers where needed. The date will depend on the weather. We also plan to tour the Schoolhouse at some point this fall.
- **Ecumenical Towers** – no report
- **Demo Gardens** – We have had such a great season at the Demonstration Garden! Last night we harvested 121 pounds of produce donated to CommUnity Pantry. That makes 1754.5 pounds in donations this season! We had a "dig" as well at the garden. We have spaces where we have not reconstructed the beds yet. We dug down about 2 feet at our little pumpkin bed and layered green material, brown material and compost to rebuild the soil. We will have another "dig" coming next week to rebuild another bed. John Weeg has led us in the reconstruction of the soil throughout the garden. We also spread cardboard over the grass area to begin the process of turning it into more growing space. We will soon plant garlic for next season as well as cover crops that will feed the soil.
- **Downtown City Projects** – This year, Master Gardener volunteers finished converting 1,920 square feet in the Capitol Street Parking Garage south garden into native perennials. The transition complements other downtown gardens featuring native perennials that are helping combat global climate change at a local level. The two-year MG project has filled in quickly to crowd out weeds giving Downtown City Gardens volunteers time to explore other area gardens.

In June, DCG volunteers visited six of eight MG gardening sites. This year and throughout the fall, DCG volunteers have participated in additional creative exchanges assisting MG coordinators and at other gardening local sites including:

- ☐ Coralville Firefighters' Memorial – planting annuals and perennials
- ☐ Ecumenical Towers – garden redesign
- ☐ Grow Johnson County – picking peppers
- ☐ Iowa City *Get Outside* – prairie seed collection
- ☐ Johnson County Fairgrounds Gardens – ongoing maintenance
- ☐ Sycamore Greenway Trail – trail maintenance, plant identification
- ☐ Oaknoll MG volunteers have indicated they are ready to update a very visible garden at the lifetime retirement residence that requires design assistance and plant material as well as labor to install.

DCG volunteers have also requested an opportunity to observe a prairie burn and this is on the list of activities to explore next. The goal of each garden visit is

to broaden MGs' understanding of local organizations, their function and mission. The visits to MG-approved garden sites provided our MG volunteers insight into each garden: some projects focus on food production, others integrate the landscape into the garden, others feature strictly flora and some offer both plants and food production. In addition, each garden varies in size, location, number of visitors to the site and property ownership. All visits were to public or nonprofit organization-managed sites.

- **Fairgrounds Beautification (includes Raingarden)** – no report
- **Plant Sale & Flea Market** – no report
- **Hortline** – no report
- **Hospice Garden at Willow Creek** – no report
- **Oaknoll Garden Project** – no report
- **Plum Grove** – no report
- **Speakers Bureau** – no report
- **Thymes Newsletter** – As the year draws to an end, please consider submitting a year-end review (with pictures, if available) to share how things went for your projects. The JCMG-Thymes blog was steady with 228 views by 123 visitors in September, with more than a quarter of the views coming via a Google search, which shows that JCMG wisdom and posts are reaching an audience beyond our immediate group.