

JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Agenda  
Sept. 14, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Approval of August 10 Meeting Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
  - General Fund: **\$22,949.99**
  - Plum Grove: **\$1,636.24**
  - Butterfly House: **\$2,257.43**
  - New or Known Pending Receipts:
4. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar
  - **October**
    - Nominate steering committee officers
    - Develop fiscal budget with project leaders
    - Review Bylaws
  - **November**
    - Approve fiscal budget
    - Approve steering committee officers
    - MG project brochure review
    - Reporting hours reminder
5. Extension Report/Announcements
  - Fall training class
  - Fall Potluck, Qualtrics RSVP
  - Statewide Zoom class offerings (Spooky plants & Fall Harvest)
  - John Weeg class & hands on work session in the demonstration garden we will create a 'Hugelkulture' bed
6. Old Business
  - JCMG fall pot-luck
  - Budget meeting preparation
7. New Business
  - JG Houseplant Swap (Linda S)

- Approach Fair Board to propose major tree planting at JC Fairgrounds as part of 40th JCMG year celebration (Chris Sedrel)
- Lavon suggests at Fall pot-luck make request for vice-chair nominees??

#### 8. Administrative Reports

- MG Continuing Education - Alice Linhart joined the CE committee assisting Doug Geraets and Linda Schreiber. After learning Iowa State professors expect fees and mileage to speak with groups, a quick check with Linn County MG revealed they've paid fees to ISU speakers and others for some time. Requesting and requiring fees, I believe, came as funding support from the state shifted. In 2001, legislative support for Regent institutions was approximately 64% and tuition costs were 31%. By 2021, financial support has shifted – legislative support is 31% and tuition costs are 64%. As a result, a \$1,000 grant for continuing education from GreenState Foundation was requested and received. JCMG is the first for GreenState's new endeavor to support environmental issues. The grant allows JCMG to offer all speakers compensation while providing educational content to MG and encouraging others to seek MG training. Two of three speakers have been confirmed. The lineup will be announced when the last speaker is identified. Our hybrid program will be offered and livestreamed on March 5, 2023 (alternate date is March 19), from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Each speaker will have one hour with a 15-minute break. No refreshments will be provided.
- Social Events
- Volunteer Hours/Secretary/Fall Training

#### 9. Adjourn

- Date of Next Meeting: **October 12**
- Thymes Newsletter Deadline: **September 28**

## Project Reports

*(submitted in advance of meeting)*

- **Attend Displays** – nothing to report
- **Butterfly House** – no report
- **Coralville Historical Schoolhouse** – no report
- **Ecumenical Towers** – no report
- **Demo Gardens** – Building a new compost bin, continuing to harvest tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and radishes, and having exciting discussions about what we will do next year.
- **Downtown City Projects** – Over the summer MG volunteers maintained the gardens, keeping them weeded and removing trash. Maintenance continues in the fall as we begin preparations to remove and store canna rhizomes next month. Planning begins to complete the native perennial planting in the Capitol Street Parking Garage south garden and the west end of the Dottie Ray Garden on Melrose Avenue.
- **Fairgrounds Beautification**
  - Rain Garden – Continues to do 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. We have started dead heading plants, cutting off all grass seeds, and other fall planning projects
  - Fairgrounds Flower Beds - continued to weed and deadhead around the fairgrounds and are picking Aronia berries to donate Wednesday.
- **Firefighters Memorial** – no report
- **Plant Sale & Flea Market** –
  - *2023 Plant Sale:* The 14th annual Plant Sale and Flea Market will be May 13, 2023. The cold spring led to a delay in getting things dug and potted and I heard from several folks that we should have the sale later in May. However, I'm persuaded that it's important to have the sale at the same time each year to build brand awareness. So we will always have the sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day.
  - *Pot inventory:* Project Green has donated all their pots to us and I've moved two loads to the fairgrounds. We are meeting on Sept 20 at 5:30 at the demo garden to inventory the pots and put in the shed for storage. Contact me if you'd like to help.
  - *2022 Plant Sale Final Report:* I've completed my review of the Qualtrics evaluations as well as the numerous comments and suggestions I received by email after the sale. I've also completed an analysis of the pre and post-sale inventories. Rather than meeting with the planning group now and debriefing the sale, I've decided to reach out to coordinators and other involved in the sale individually to discuss what worked and didn't work and get their suggestions for improvement. I've

just started that process. I then will prepare a final report which will include suggestions for next year. We'll use that document as a place to start our discussion and planning for next year's sale.

- *2023 Plant Sale Budget*: This week I received the final expense report from Shannon and I will use that report to put together my budget for next year. I'll present that report and budget at the October meeting.
- **Hortline** – no report
- **Hospice Garden at Willow Creek** – no report
- **JC Fair/4-H Buckets of Flowers & Scarecrow** – no report
- **Oaknoll Garden Project** - Carolyn Murphy did butterfly tagging with the residents of the care center this month. There is a butterfly tent in the courtyard of the care center and Ann Ruppenkamp and Pam Buethe have been tending the plants. The residents are very appreciative of the beauty of the courtyard and many enjoy sitting outside. For the first time in three years, the Oaknoll gardeners will enjoy a thank-you buffet lunch and visit with their pals and the rest of the group on October 22.
- **Plum Grove** – MGs have started fall cleanup, deadheading in wildflower gardens, and added new volunteers.
- **Speakers Bureau** – One upcoming event at the Solon Library: “Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter”.
- **Thymes Newsletter** – Thymes blog July: 84 visitors, 161 views, 3 posts published; August: 67 visitors, 153 views, 1 post published. We need articles for the October Thymes—now would be a great time to use your writing skills!