

JCMG Steering Committee

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 6:30 P.M., Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to order at 6:33 P.M. (13/24 Quorum - No)

Present: Doug Geraets, Linda Schreiber, Chris Sedrel, Esther Retish, Jean Holzhammer, Carolyn Murphy, Mike Murphy, Jackie Wellborn, Beth Fisher, Megan Garrels, Michael Hesseltine, Laurie Canady, Kay Mohling

Absent: Darlene Clausen, Emil Rinderspacher, Melissa Serenda, Barb Schintler, Melanie Hauptert, Ann Rupenkamp, Vickie Siefers, Lavon Yeggy, Sharon Jeter, Marilou Gay, JoAnne Leach

Others present: Shannon Bielicke, Barb Robinson, Mary Hensley, Carl Hensley, John Weeg

2. Approval of August 2022 meeting minutes - approved with no corrections

3. Treasurer's Report

a. General Fund: **\$22,949.99**

b. Plum Grove: **\$1,636.24**

c. Butterfly House: **\$2,257.43**

d. New or Known Pending Receipts:

- *Expense:* Carolyn Murphy, MG Butterfly House, fair supplies, labels, ice, & merchandise sold at fair, \$37.85, and MG Plum Grove, garden supplies & printing, \$85.97, & Plum Grove Heritage Tasting Party supplies, \$74.68
- *Expense:* Barb Robinson, MG Butterfly House, fair supplies, \$8.46
- *Expense:* Chris Sedrel, MG General, Demo Garden, posts for compost bin, vent for shed, & hooks for shed, \$217.55, and MG Plum Grove, garden fence posts, \$37.50

e. Additional income which will show on reports next month:

- *Income:* MG General, Ecumenical Towers, \$200.00 donation

- f. Budget report: Jean provided a report of separate project budgets and expenses

Discussion:

- Mike Hesselstine expressed concern that new income for Ecumenical Towers since the August treasurer's report is not reflected in the project balances. Jean explained that income was not included in the project's budget report.
- Carolyn Murphy pointed out that income from the Butterfly House and the Plum Grove Heritage Party is not reflected in the September treasurer's report. Shannon explained that because the JC Extension accounting process does not coincide with our Steering Committee meeting schedule, account balances are updated each month after our meeting.
- There was concern raised that donations to specific projects included in the General Fund might get lost. Carolyn requested that project leaders be provided an income/expense breakdown on a regular basis. It was agreed that project leaders should be responsible for keeping track of their projects' income and expenses. The history can be found in the Steering Committee minutes which are available on the JCMG website. Shannon will assist as needed.
- Mike Hesselstine asked if unused budgeted funds roll over into the next year's budget. They do not but should serve to help project leaders in determining needs for the following year.

4. Review of JCMG Steering Committee Meeting Calendar

a. October

- Nominate steering committee officers: Vice-chair
- Develop fiscal budget with project leaders
- Review Bylaws: There will be a two person committee. Alice Linhart has volunteered and Doug will find a 2nd person. Please send any comments or suggestions to Doug for committee review.

b. November

- Approve fiscal budget
- Approve steering committee officers
- MG project brochure review: Laurie Canady has volunteered to help with the update. Please send information to Laurie & Shannon.
- Reporting hours reminder: Linda pointed out that this is important to project leaders in preparing monthly reports.

5. Extension Report/Announcements (Shannon)

a. Fall training class:

- The in-person Tree ID class with Mark Vitosh is scheduled for Wednesday 9/21 at 6:00 P.M. Shannon reminded the group that anyone who wants to attend please RSVP.
- The wrap-up class will be Thursday 10/27 at 6:00 P.M. Shannon welcomes class format suggestions. It was generally agreed that, as we've done in the past, project leaders would describe their projects and encourage interns to try out everything that might interest them.

b. Fall Potluck:

- Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 P.M. in the Heritage Barn breezeway or the Extension office in case of rain. Shannon has sent an informational email requesting Qualtrics RSVP. Shannon has ordered a sheet cake for the celebration.

c. Statewide Zoom class offerings (Spooky plants & Fall Harvest)

- Email has been sent with sign-up information

d. John Weeg class & hands-on work session in the Demo Garden

- We will create a 'Hugelkulture' bed. This is a centuries old way of building a raised garden bed that will retain moisture and reduce the amount of watering necessary. It involves burying wood, mulch and/or manure in layers. The plan is to build three test beds with different compositions to determine the most effective method. A date has not yet been set.

6. Old Business

- a. JCMG Fall Potluck: discussed in Extension Report
- b. Plant Sale & Flea Market financial wrap-up and survey
 - Emil is still working on the report and inventory. He plans to present results at the October meeting.
- c. Budget meeting preparation
 - Project leaders are asked to send 2023 budget requests to Shannon.

7. New Business

- a. JCMG Houseplant swap (Linda S.)
 - Linda, Jackie and Melissa are planning this event for October 15 to be held in the breezeway of the Heritage Barn.
- b. Approach Fair Board to propose major tree planting at JC Fairgrounds (Chris S.):
 - 40 native trees as part of the 40th JCMG year celebration.
 - JCMG could be involved in on-going care possibly including tree-pruning and tree identification classes.
 - Shannon cautioned that this proposal must be thought through before presenting to the Fair Board.
- c. Lavon suggested we make a request for Vice-Chair nominees at Fall Potluck.
- d. UI student volunteers (John W.)
 - John has learned that UI Geology students might be available to help with the Hugelkulture project (and other garden projects) for class credit. Shannon cautioned that we have to be clear about what organization they are affiliated with because MG volunteers must have background checks and training.

8. Administrative Reports

a. 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.

9. Other Announcements

- ### a. Plum Grove fall clean-up will be Saturday, Sept. 24 at 9:30 A.M. (Rain date Oct. 1)

10. Adjourn (7:54 P.M.)

- ### a. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, October 12**
- ### b. Thymes Newsletter Deadline: **Wednesday, September 28**