

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Master Gardener Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2020

The Iowa Master Gardener program advisory committee met virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10 am.

Members present include: Co-Chair Becki Lynch, Co-Chair Chelsea Martens, Doug Brightman, Katelyn Brinkerhoff, Ann Carter, Susan DeBlieck, Steven Eilers, Sherry Ford, Cindy Haynes, Cindy Hutcheson, Richard Juaron, Donald Lewis, Clint Mercer and RoxAnn Rhodes.

Committee Updates:

We welcomed Clint Mercer (staff) and Cindy Hutcheson (MG volunteer) as new Master Gardener advisory committee representatives.

Old Business:

Susan reported on:

- Winter webinars were offered by 38 counties across Iowa. Video links were provided to participants in these counties, so they could view them from home when offices closed to the public. These videos will be posted to the YouTube channel on April 2.
- Growing Together Mini-grants: 29 mini-grant applications were received. 100% were funded. This included three new locations. (22 projects were funded in 2019)
- March 31 Horticulture Inservice has been postponed. Looking to reschedule in the fall.
- Volunteer Reporting System updates are coming soon.
- Conferences:
 - Master Gardener Coordinator Conference hosted in Tennessee in Sept 14-17, 2020- highly recommended for county coordinators
 - International Master Gardener Coord. Conf. hosted by VA Tech in 2021 and Kansas State in 2023 – available to volunteers and coordinators
- Advancement training video is in the works. Released in April.

New Business:

Susan provided information on:

- Growing Season webinar topics and speakers have been identified however, the sessions have not been recorded, and may not be completed this summer (due to the pandemic).
- 2020 MG Training Updates
 - 27 counties are currently signed up to host the training.
 - Class on Campus will be October 10, 2020.
- Scholarship account has been set up via ISU Foundation. Donations of \$250 were received in 2019.

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The committee discussed the reactivation policy for inactive Master Gardeners. Katelyn made a motion to require inactive Master Gardener volunteers to re-take the core training to become re-instated after a 5 year lapse. RoxAnn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The committee reviewed two Search for Excellence award applications. Sherry moved to accept the Linn County - Outreach Gardens application. Katelyn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Katelyn moved to accept the Marshall County - Youth Education Gardens application. Cindy Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A brief discussion was held about adding wording to designate time limits between repeat Search for Excellence Award applications that should include improvements, changes in audiences or presenters. Check boxes will be added to the application to indicate whether a project has been awarded previously.

Adam Janke, PhD, provided professional development on the topic of Natural Resources programming and resources available, including the Master Conservationist program.

Susan will connect with us late summer to set our next meeting date.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carter