

The Iowa Master Gardener program advisory committee met virtually on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The Zoom meeting was called to order at 9:10 am.

Members present include: Chair Chelsea (Martens) Llewellyn, Sue Boettcher, Ann Carter, Steven Eilers, Sherry Ford, Sam Genson, Cindy Haynes, Alicia Herzog, Cindy Hutcheson, Donald Lewis and RoxAnn Rhoads.

### **Committee Updates:**

The committee reviewed two applications for the NE Iowa volunteer opening. A brief discussion was held and Lori Scovel will be invited to join our group. The motion was made by RoxAnn and seconded by Sam with no one opposed. RoxAnn has agreed to co-chair our committee with Chelsea.

Sherry moved to approve the minutes from our April meeting. Cindy Haynes seconded. Motion carried.

Alicia reported on:

- Master Gardener training – fall 2021
  - 504 applied across the state, 358 paid for and participated in the training in 70 counties
  - 26 selected the Pro-Hort option
  - 26 were on a wait list
  - County coordinators reported being dissatisfied with the online registration process from this training
  - Trainees reported frustration around obtaining the printed manuals and confusion about in-person training requirements
  - Online content wasn't 100% complete at the launch of the course.
- Training – proposals for going forward
  - Keep the online registrations, but hand control back over to counties to accept, collect payment and order materials as well as communicate directly about in-person sessions
  - Require a minimum of 4 in-person sessions, encourage regional partnerships if helpful
  - Two class sessions per calendar year: May-Aug and Aug-Nov
    - Counties are not required to offer support for both class sessions – partner regionally, as needed
  - Adjust the price: \$150 with \$50 staying at the county level to order materials and process background screenings.
  - Return of the workbook resource
  - Cindy Haynes and Alicia will work to improve the overall functionality of canvas platform
  - Class on Campus would return as an optional, highly encouraged, opportunity
    - \$50 registration fee, payable by participants if they choose to attend
    - April 9 or 23
    - Held on campus @ Horticulture Building
- Winter Webinar Series
  - December – pollinators - 3 one-hour sessions, January – landscape design - 3 one-hour sessions, February & March – plant propagation – 4 one-hour sessions
  - Free, open to the public, hosted via Zoom (limit of 300 participants)
  - Sessions will be recorded and shared out afterward

The committee reviewed the current Advisory Committee Guidelines and agreed to minor edits regarding the specific months and time of the meeting. The committee will meet twice a year, generally in the spring and the fall. The spring meeting will be held in person and the fall meeting will be hosted virtually.

The committee discussed promotion of the Search for Excellence awards. Additional categories will be added to the application. The submitted applications will be reviewed prior to and voted on during our next meeting. Alicia will work on a workshop designed to help our Master Gardeners report their impact and write award proposals between now and the application due date of March 15, 2022.

Our next meeting will be April 8, on campus in Ames with a 10 am start time.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 11:17 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carter