

Polk County Master Gardeners Steering Committee
6 PM Thursday, January 27, 2022

Polk County Master Gardeners met in person at the Extension Office along with Zoom. Members present were: Chair Eddie Robinson, Chair-Elect Bob Helvey, Treasurer Stephanie McAdam, Assistant Treasurer Dick Chavannes, Secretary Sandie Sydnes, Kent Freise, Rhonda Murphy, Charlene Butz, Judi Pierick, Judy Goshorn, Eva Henderson, Joyce Carle, Sherri Socich, Isabella Hurless-Banks. Paul Satre, Patrick Schmitt, Ruth Doxon, Angie Bowen, Mary Poulter, Rosie Surber, Jean Schustek, Linda Brown, Mart Gannon, Mary Rolfes, Kelsa Parker Browning (Extension Office), Paul Gibbins (Extension Office), Joe Gonzalez (Extension Office) and Denise McAfee (Extension Office).

Motion by Bob Helvey, second by Dick Chavannes, to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Stephanie McAdam highlighted the Financial Statements that were emailed. Budgets for 2022 will be the same as 2021, totaling \$12,675. There is \$40,000 in reserves and \$42,974.58 in General Funds. Stephanie mentioned she just received the information 2 days ago, and wishes we could get it sooner in the month so to have before our regular meeting time. Motion by Bob Helvey, second by Dick Chavannes to research a solution before our next meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Isabella Hurless-Banks, to accept the Financial Statements. Motion carried.

Update from MG Program Coordinator- Kelsa reported:

1. The Master Conservationist Program will be held in April and May. Contact Kelsa if you are interested because the slots fill up quickly.
2. MG Training 2022 will be a little different. Two sessions will be offered, one in Spring/Summer and the other in the Fall. Polk County will only offer the Fall session.
3. 2021 recorded volunteer hours was 12,600. While this is greater than 2020, it is lower than 2019 hours.

Old Business: Eddie led the greenhouse discussion. A memo was sent out with the meeting agenda giving greenhouse information. Ruth Doxon asked for a serious discussion of what the primary purpose was for the greenhouse and if it was sustainable. Jean Schustek mentioned it was not just problem with volunteers, but with the need for managerial volunteers. Consensus was there is desire for a greenhouse and need to look into opportunities. Decision was to continue with approach to look into greenhouse and come up with a plan.

New Business:

1. Kelsa presented a MG communications project she has been working on with Angie Bowen for the past year. Their goal was to find a way for MG and public to communicate, unify and work more collectively. They also wanted to have a collective calendar. They recommend Wild Apricot platform.

Kelsa showed a mock-up of the website. This could consolidate all the current MG project websites into one location but still have their individual identities. The cost for this platform would be paid for by the Extension Office, not the PCMG funds. Motion by Rhonda Murphy, second by Mary Poulter, to adopt with Wild Apricot Website. Motion carried.

2. Rising Star Leadership program presentation video was shown. It provides a Volunteer Opportunity Development template. Decision was to have Kelsa put an article in the Green Thumb to request help in creating a task force to implement this program. Send Kelsa an email if you are interested or have someone to recommend.

3. Linda Brown said she and Eva Henderson met with Caring Hands in Altoona. They have recently purchased property with a goal of building a greenhouse that maybe we could use. They are looking for a way for volunteers to learn how to grow vegetables.

Motion by Bob Helvey, second by Jean Schustek, to adjourn. Motion carried.