

**Polk County Master Gardeners Steering Committee Meeting**  
**May 21,2020 6 pm**

The Polk County Master Gardeners met via Zoom. Members present were: Chair Christine Baker, Chair-elect Marietta Rives, Secretary Sandie Sydnese, Treasurer Stephanie McAdam, Assistant Treasurer Dick Chavannes, Katherine Howsare, Charlene Butz, Ruth Doxon, Dean Brand, Paul Satre, Sherri Soich, Jean Schustek, Bob Helvey, Isabella Hurless-Banks, Jen Firzlaff, Rosie Surber, Judi Pierick, Judy Goshorn, Rhonda Murphy and Kalsa Parker Browning. Also present were Paul Gibbins, Marlene Olson, John and Catherine Kaiser.

Motion by Stephanie McAdam, second by Isabella Hurless-Banks, to accept minutes of the previous meeting dated January 16, 2020. Motion carried with roll call vote.

Stephanie reported that at end of April we had \$75,214.55 without including capital funds. There is also \$25,000 reserve. Motion by Bob Helvey, second by Dean Brand to accept financial report. Motion carried by roll vote.

**Updates from MG Coordinator:** Kalsa said ISU is still recommending no programming through May 31, and no information has been given for after that date. She hopes to have more information for the June Green Thumb. The Extension Office is still closed to the public. They cannot receive packaging or deliveries. Electronic financial receipts are acceptable. There is no information on programming. There have also been no guidelines on required MG hours and probably will not be until after July.

The Fall Master Gardener training will be on Monday nights from August 3 -October 19 (graduation) at 6 pm. So far have about 20 signed up so room for more applications. Planning on normal for now, but probably smaller class than last year's class of 35.

Paul Gibbins said they are monitoring the advice from Polk County Emergency Management and Health Department which currently recommends people stay in place, July 6 is currently the earliest date before the Extension Office is open for meetings.

**New Business:**

Bob Helvey said John and Catherine Kaiser will chair the nominating committee and will be added to the steering committee.

Marlene Olson described the perennial plant sale that the Enabling Garden has held every year for 10 years and six years for their online sale. They have 2 sales around mid-April, a Facebook sale and a general sale. They have been making \$7000/year. Nothing is potted up, but rather put into plastic bags and kept in lined apple boxes. They may have over 1000 divisions that sale for \$3,4 or 5 each. Advertising is done in 10 different ways, but the most successful is via Facebook. The general sale is from 10 am to 3 pm on a with noon to 1:30 Facebook sale. There is no expense to use Facebook. The suggestion is that we hold a similar sale for the general budget that could be held at both the Demonstration Garden and the Enabling Garden. Discussion followed. Motion by Katherine Howsare, second by Bob Helvey, to have a written up proposal and documentation (Marlene and Judy agreed to do this) at the next steering committee meeting for this project. Katherine Howsare announced that, after much consideration, the Art in Garden originally scheduled for August 1, 2020, has been postponed until August 2021.

Charlene Butz announced that the two bus trips scheduled for this year have also been postponed until 2021. Ruth Doxon inquired about what the gardens were doing for their education classes. Paul suggested they wait until at least July.

Motion by Bob Helvey, second by Stephanie McAdam, to adjourn. Motion carried with roll call vote.