

Master Gardener Foundation of San Juan County (FINAL)
Board of Directors Meeting
July 12, 2022

Present: Board members Kate Yturri, Nancy Forker, Sandra May, Lenore Bayuk, Kim Howard, Sandy Ryan, Dianne MAcondray, Vicki Leimback; Program Coordinator Caitie Blethen; and members Alice Deane, Tony Suruda, Jane Wentworth, Marilyn Gresseth, Diana Brooks, Dray Longdon, Carol Kosturn, Lene Symes

Not present: Sandy Ryan, Barbara Orcutt, Debbie Young

This meeting was held via Zoom conference.

Minutes: Review and approval of minutes of the April 19, 2022 Board meeting. Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, passed.

Finance - Nancy

Budget reviewed

We have \$57,872 in the bank. Expenses included insurance bill, demo garden and Apple orchard operating expenses. Five items representing Lopez, Orcas and SJI were donated to the Master Gardener Foundation Advanced Education Conference. Money collected will go to the state MGF. There was no finance committee report.

Project Updates

SJI Demo garden update - Alice

Demo garden is in excellent shape due to work of many including interns. Information table is now at the Demo Garden. Photos of the garden are encouraged for publicity. MGs are harvesting many vegetables from the garden including Asian greens, peas and more. Please pass photos to Dray and she can post on the website.

Orcas native plant garden/school garden update – Tony

Tony reported that the Native Plant Garden is in bloom and we have had several work parties with interns to prepare the garden to be on the Orcas Island Garden Club Garden Tour. A Master Gardener information table was staffed in the school garden at the successful 2 day tour. Vicky suggested we have more training and Master Gardener information at the next Tour.

Lopez heritage apple orchard – There were no Lopez MGs in attendance to give a report on the Apple Orchard.

Slow Food Garden (across from court house).

This is a program for 3-5 year olds. Zoe got a grant from SNAP to get kids involved in gardening early on. MGs are volunteering to work with the children and their parents.

Eagle Rock Camp on SJI – Caitie, Alice

Island Rec's day camp (ages K-5). MG are working with the children in the school garden to grow crops like Asian greens and salad greens that would be ready to harvest and eat by the end of the camp. Camp is Tuesday 9:30 to noon. Alice would love to have more MGs join in to work with the 55 children in small groups. Watering is a task they all enjoy and takes a lot of time. Activities also include movement and seed matching games. The children enjoyed planting flower seeds in egg cartons that they took home.

Hoop House electrification – Alice

In order to resume the Spring Plant Sale without the logistical nightmare of multiple greenhouses, we need to attempt electrification of the hoop house in the Demo Garden. Kate proposed to Alice, since she is on the Mullis Center board that we explore either a shared line with the FRC or our own line. Anna at the Mullis Center is skeptical but we are probably able to have our own line according to Julia. Mo will delineate what we need in the way of lights and heat pads and the timeline for using them. Lenore will work with her as the BOD liaison. They will report back to the board at the October board meeting. We will need a board member to contact OPALCO regarding how to proceed once we have information about our needs.

Annual Gardening Workshop

Dray and Sandy worked together to get the registration piece on the website. Dray continues to work out kinks. Registration is open with a simple confirmation letter. Registrants will be contacted again in September with a more detailed confirmation letter. They will also receive the usual Zoom invites once registration is closed. Eight topics will be presented over 4 Tuesdays and Thursdays on 10/18, 10/20, 10/25, 10/27 costing \$35. Linda Gilkeson will be the Keynote. Kate will be recruiting facilitators to introduce speakers in late August. Please contact her if you are interested. Workshop publicity reported that Save the date and Flyer are done. Caitie has distributed to other MG coordinators. Keynote article will be published after Labor Day. Last year email seemed to be most effective channel for promotion. We plan to send emails to last years' attendees.

Grass ID field workshop rescheduled for 2023 - Jane

We need to pick a date and hold this Grass ID field workshop next year. We will need housing for the presenter. The event was postponed this year due to lack of enthusiasm and Covid concerns. Jane predicts 12-15 people would attend. She also reported that there are several SJI plant scientists who are interested in attending and she would like to invite them. She plans to organize and publicize sooner so people can make plans to attend.

Native Plant Sale - Jane

Jane needs volunteers to step up to organize the sale during the winter since she will be traveling. Jane sees potential for collaborating with Land Bank again, however details need to be worked out. Jane will attempt to recruit helpers from class of interns and discuss collaboration with Land Bank with all parties.

Spring Plant Sale

There was unanimous agreement to attempt to hold the Spring Plant Sale in 2023.

Diagnostic Clinics - Kim

Both venues are excellent for clinics. Samples have been plentiful, interns are engaged and Lopez MGs have been attending both SJI and Orcas clinics.

Newsletter – Lene Symes

Content is great. New content is always welcome.

Mentor Program

It was the best group of mentees and mentors.

Old Business

Nominating Committee

Dray Longdon has volunteered to replace Dianne Macondray whose 6 year term has expired. The group thanked Dianne for her service. Vicki suggested contacting Lopez intern who attended the Orcas clinic to serve on the board as Barbara Orcutt's replacement.

Ideas for Community Outreach and Education

Ideas were discussed and will be discussed more at the October meeting. Julia suggested a presentation about home orchard care and maintenance, Caitie suggested a presentation/demonstration about composting. Tom Thornton was suggested as a possible speaker for the home orchard and Diana Brooks was suggested as a possible speaker for the composting presentation.

BOD Officers and Directors' Liability Insurance

Kate is waiting for quote and will present and discuss at October or January meeting.

New Business

WSU Endowment

WSU state Master Gardener Foundation is attempting to raise \$1 million for an endowed chair for the Master Gardener Program, which many believe will raise our profile within WSU and contribute to greater support for Master Gardeners throughout the university system. However there are still many questions about this effort so we will revisit after the Advanced Education Conference. Those attending may be able to learn more about it and report back.

Motion to adjourn and seconded.

Respectfully submitted April 19, 2022.

Sandra May, Secretary
SJCMGF