

**Master Gardener Foundation of San Juan County  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 13, 2021**

**Present:** Board members Kate Yturri, Nancy Forker, Sandra May, Barbara Orcutt, Dianne Macondray, Lenore Bayuk, Diana Brooks, Kim Howard, Pat Kuentzel; Program Coordinator Caitie Blethen; and members Jane Wentworth, Vicki Leimback, Marilyn Kline, Alice Dean, Elaine Frazel, Sandy Ryan

Board Members not present: Sylvia McKenney, Julia Turney

This meeting was held via Zoom conference due to the physical distancing restrictions in place at present ordered by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**Minutes:** Review and approval of minutes of the January 7, 2020 Board meeting. Motion to approve the minutes (Barbara), seconded, passed.

**Finance - Nancy**  
Budget

We have \$49,500 in the bank. Things are slow compared to previous years due to Covid. Reviewed P&L report (ran April 2<sup>nd</sup>). Donations are from Lopez and Orcas Island donation on talks with Carol Miles. This was paid out as Continuing Education. \$250 was spent to Mullis for Spring Plant Sale.

Finance committee report – has not met since last meeting.

**Projects**

**2021 Garden Workshop Series - Kate**

Tony Gitoni – Adaptive Gardener from CA will be the keynote speaker ‘The Lifelong Gardener’ – book and title of presentation. Monica, Carol Miles and Linda Gilkonson will present for 2 hours each. Decided to go ahead in doing a webinar rather than in person. Dates will be Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Sat 10am for the keynote and then 3 hour sessions on the following Tuesday and Thursday. The following Tuesday will have 2 hour presentations with 15 minute breaks between.

**2021 Spring plant sale - Alice and Lenore**

We cannot use the greenhouse at Skagit since the thermostat is not working. Caitie is trying to reach Randi to see if we can resolve. Mo moved flats of tomatoes out of the greenhouse. May need help with some computer stuff. According to Lenore, Basils are coming along fine. May need help planting lettuce.

### **2021 Perennial plant sale - Tony and Kate**

There are 250 various perennials plus 80 that Tony has. Kate will help on fulfillment day. Sandy May will work on the website part of the sale. Will pre-order the perennials as well as the veggies. There will also be a pre-sale also for Master Gardeners. Fulfillment will be May 22<sup>nd</sup>, pick up on SJI May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lopez is still tbd. Orcas folks will help with fulfillment and will pick up the plants to bring back for Orcas.

### **Plans for Grow your own Food in 2021 – Caitie**

Because of Covid, haven't made any plans yet for this spring.

### **SJI Demo garden update - Alice**

Straw bales are brought in (from Horseshu ranch), plan is to grow potatoes. This will be a project that will be documented.

Dolly and Diana are going to help in the demo garden.

Alice has tons of starts to be planted out in the demo garden. Great because the food bank is very busy right now.

### **Orcas native plant garden/school garden update – Tony, Lene**

Work party last week, pulled up weeds, put up mason bees. You can see the insects developing which is a big hit with the kids.

### **Lopez heritage apple orchard – Pat**

Nothing to report, the trees are growing, time to start the irrigation for the season.

## **Program - Caitie**

### **WSU Covid updates**

We can do in – person with up to 15 volunteers at an event. Need a planning document, submitted to Brook. Still in Phase 3, no new updates from WSU. The farmers market will be discussed on Thursday to see if there is any interest in volunteering.

### **New volunteer data base roll-out**

Old database is aging out. WSU will fade out old database, data will be moved to the new database. Enter hours up to March in old database then put hours for April in new database. Any help is available. According to Diana – new database is a lot easier.

### **Program committee report**

No meeting since February, talked about revamping the mentor program for the horticulture participants.

### **Diagnostic clinic status - Kim and Tony**

Decided not to have a clinic at this time due to Covid since you have to work closely together. Can't team up with 6 foot distancing and working outside.

Will there be an amendment based on immunization status? Catie will follow up with WSU. WSU is being careful about requiring vaccinations for programs. We can't ask members their vaccination status. We will go slow and follow WSU's lead on opening up.

Kim, Tony and Caitie have a planning meeting on the books.

## **Newsletter**

Diana, Lena and Kate are getting a process in order. Working on April newsletter, will come out the last week of the month. Publishing every other month so next newsletter is in June. Encourage anyone to submit content.

## **Home horticulture update and plans for future training**

We have 3 trainees, they have to complete zoom and then go through a test. After that they will be set up with mentors. Next year, winter 2022 in person Master Gardener training may be possible.

## **Old Business**

### **Master Gardener Botany CE - Caitie and Jane**

Had about 30 people online. It was lively Q&A, David Giblin is an excellent teacher. The recordings were available. Thanks for funding this presentation. Check was sent for David's honorarium. Good timing to have done in February. Would be great to have David teach the botany portion of the Master Gardener training. Grass workshop (Clay) may not happen in June as previously planned, will postpone until 2022.

**Veggie community webinars** – according to Caitie, they were great, 300 people signed up. Community appreciated it as well.

### **SJI Community garden report – Jenny**

According to Elaine, it looks like most of plants are thriving. Basic idea is there are inches of sand so roots make their own soil. This makes for a lot less weeds. There are some plants the deer enjoy like camas. Jenny has been deer spraying every time it rains. According to Alice, the Demo Gardeners also help weed at the resource center. There is an article in the newsletter about the community garden. Would be nice to have Jenny do a video walk through.

## **New Business**

### **Mini retreat report and 2.0 plans**

Jenny Marquis talked about the relationship between the program and foundation. A lot of dynamics might not apply to our group but it was interesting. She also was giving WSU credit in what Master Gardeners do. We could do more to give WSU credit. Also if we structure things differently, we could relieve Caitie of some work.

Caitie - appreciated how board members wore two hats – both for the foundation as well as Master Gardener hats. Around priorities, in May meeting look at these more.

Next retreat hopefully will be in person.

### **Native Plant Sale 2022 - Jane**

Jane – March 2022, should we have a Native Plant Sale. Need to decide by July this year. We could do bare root only and do bundling outdoors. People are missing the sale, there is demand for this type of information.

Jane will look at plant materials and summarize what the plan is. Communication will be by email.

Laurie is not interested in being involved next year, Jane could use some help. Eliza had a plant sale recently from pre-orders. It brought joy to the community.

Jane will be talking about wildflowers and where to find them!

**Elections and thank you to Diana and Pat**

Sandy Ryan (SJI) will take board of director as well as Debbie Young (Lopez)  
Normally elections are at the annual meeting so everyone votes. We can do this by email so we can talk about it.

Motion to adjourn (Kim), seconded (Lenore)

Respectfully submitted June 30, 2020.

Sandra May, Secretary  
SJCMGF