

Memphis Area Master Gardener Member Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Call to Order 6 p.m.

President Jan Dickey called the Thursday, January 12, 2023, Memphis Area Master Gardener's meeting to order. The meeting was conducted in-person at the Agricenter.

Business Meeting

Approval of the November 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Membership approved the minutes to the November member meeting as published, as no corrections were made.

Goals for 2023

Jan began the meeting with a call for everyone to adopt a new project this year. We will all benefit from going the extra mile. Committee chairs introduced their committees and projects. They discussed opportunities to volunteer.

Website: Co-Chair Ashley Burnett stated that all 2022 "Documents, Forms and Resources" were archived. The Member Directory includes the 2023 interns now. Members can edit their entries in the Member Directory under the Members and Interns tab. Contact Karen Jordan and she will update the Church Directory app for cell phones. To submit information, see the instructions listed under the Website Committee section in Operations then Standing Committees. If you have questions, email webmaster@memphisareamastergardeners.com.

Youth Education: Chair Debbie Griste -Evans stated that the committee visits schools and advise educators on garden lessons and gardens. They host the Junior Master Gardener Tent at Spring Fling, participate in Earth Day and conduct Plant Camp the week of June 5. Contact Steven Scheer to help with Plant Camp.

Spring Fling: Co-Chair Ginny Fletcher reminded everyone that Spring Fling is March 24-25 with set-up March 23. The theme is "All Abuzz." We need a Vendor Chair and Co-Chair. We will be relying on plant donations from members, since we lost 75 percent of all plants due to the freeze in December. She asked members to save plastic sticks yard services use when treating lawns. Need garden-related items for the Garden Jumble. We need donated gift certificates and new items and those in excellent condition for the Silent Auction. The general sign-up for all shifts will start in February via Sign-Up Genius.

Greenhouse: Annette Dabaldo notified the group a pipe froze in the bathroom causing the ceiling to fall. There are lights so it's a safety

hazard. We cannot go to the green house unless we are watering on Wednesday. The perennials, bulbs, and trees are looking good. They are reseeding plants as they can. There won't be an on-line sale this year. We will need pollinator plants. Call Mary Cody-Page or Annette, you can help.

Zoo Crew: Coordinator Neil Stringer states that the Zoo Crew takes care of the Once Upon a Farm and Aquarium areas. The Zoo provides the plants and everything else. They added QR codes along the fences to describe the plants. As a result, Zoo Crew is now a core project. If you are interested in committing for a whole season, can attend a zoo orientation/training, contact Neil Stringer.

Additional Opportunities: Jan discussed other areas members can volunteer:

- The Finance Committee prepares the budget and audits the books twice a year for the board. It needs another member.
- The Historian takes pictures and puts a yearly scrapbook together. Janeal Humbar needs help with both activities.
- The Red Barn and Extension Entrance need refreshing planting and maintenance (extension entrance). Contact Debbie Hill if you can help.
- The Scholarship Committee needs another member.
- The Social Engagement Committee needs help establishing the committee, setting up a phone chair and carpool. Call Linda Weiss, Debbie Hill or Marilyn Trimble.
- Master Gardeners Presents on Saturday, Feb 18 needs 4 volunteers for set-up, registration, taking names and handing out notecards.
- The Standing Committee and Project Document Committee, a new committee, needs help finalizing documents to for members.
- The Survey Committee needs help developing and sending out a survey to our approximately 400 members regarding their interests and abilities.

Master Gardeners Presents

The Master Gardeners Present returns Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9 a.m.- noon at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. The event is open to the public. Tickets at the door are \$10 for interns and master gardeners wearing their badges and MBG members. Tickets for the general public are \$15. The speakers are Carol Reese and Lelia Kelly with a Q&A session after. To receive a door prize ticket, you must donate five can goods.

Extension Report and Remarks

Chris Cosby said we have re-laxed, re-assessed and re-charged during December. As we begin 2023, we need to re-commit and re-start to the master gardener program. Chris recapped all we accomplished in 2022 (see the home page of the website). We sponsor many free events for

the community: TOGG, Ask a Master Gardener Table, Spring Fling, 4H Youth, Speaker's Bureau, etc. We need to continue supporting them.

The Extension Office is in disarray from 3 inches of water due to a pipe bursting in the master gardener office. There will be new paint, carpet and furniture. We hope to be back in the office by the end of January.

The Hotline needs support. For 6-7 months, nobody staffed it. When it starts back up, we will need volunteers to work there.

Chris asked everyone to visit the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener website, accessed through the Resources tab on our website. We need to support our State and regional events.

Suggestion Box/Motion

The board received a suggestion that the master gardeners donate funds to help replace the 4H Corn Crib.

Whereas, it has been suggested to the Executive Board that the master gardeners donate funds to help replace the 4H Corn Crib; and

Whereas, the Board has reviewed the suggestion, and now recommends the master gardeners donate \$2,500 to the 4H scholarship fund to send children to summer camp.

The motion was seconded and carried.

If members would like to make a personal donation to 4H to help them replace their Corn Crib, make checks out to: UT-TSU Extension Shelby County. Please note "4-H Corn Crib" in the subject or memo area. Checks can be brought or mailed to: UT-TSU Shelby County Extension; Attn: 4-H Corn Crib or Michael Owen; 7777 Walnut Grove Rd.; Suite B, Box 21; Memphis, TN 38120.

Responses to Suggestions will now be listed on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report

We will have a report in February. Our treasurer resigned. According to the by-laws, the president recommends a new treasurer and the board votes on the recommendation. Ginny Fletcher, who held the position in the past, accepted the position.

Collierville Victory Garden

The garden will have a work session Saturday, Feb. 25 to prep the garden for the season. Another special work session will be 9-noon, Saturday, Feb. 25. They will try to have a Saturday work session monthly for those who work.

Volunteer Opportunities

Go to the website, www.memphisareamastergardeners.org, and newsletter for volunteer opportunities. Everyone should record their volunteer and CEU hours often.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Debbie Hill, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: 6 p.m., Thursday, February 9, 2023