

Memphis Area Master Gardener Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2024

Call to Order 6:06 p.m.

President Steve Scheer called the Thursday, January 11, 2024, Memphis Area Master Gardeners' meeting to order. The meeting was conducted in-person at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Speaker

Vice President Terry Merriweather introduced Daniel Grose, Director of Horticulture at the garden, who presented "Calm and Restful Beauty of the Winter Garden".

Business Meeting:

Approval of the November 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Membership approved the minutes of the November member meeting as published.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ginny Fletcher presented the financial report.

Special Order of Business

Finance committee chair LeAnn Drewry gave a presentation to outline the proposed 2024 MAMG Budget.

Member Robert Hollingsworth moved that the membership adopt the proposed budget. Motion carried unanimously.

President Steve Scheer discussed the recent trend of expenses increasing over income. He encouraged members and committees to consider ways to decrease expenses and share ideas for increasing income. The Finance Committee will do a study to determine what expenses should be covered by dues alone in order to make a recommendation for a future dues amount.

Committee Reports

The organization is in need of a Publicity/Public Relations chair.

Master Gardeners Present chair Jan Dickey shared that expenses have been reduced for the event by having less printed materials. This year tickets may be purchased ahead of time. It will be February 17th at Lichterman Nature Center and is \$10 for Master Gardeners, \$12 for others. A plant sale will occur before and after the presentations.

Dr Chris Cooper asked members to remember that Spring Fling is an educational outreach event for the community. Extension agents will be included in the event this year. He asked members to be on their best behavior and be welcoming. He also shared that the organization will not have to pay for use of the Red Barn for the event this year.

Spring Fling chair Linda Taylor shared various changes to the event for 2024. They are in need of a publicity chair, yard sign distribution, and welcome tent help. She asked members to begin gathering donations for the garden jumble and silent auction. Sign-up genius will be available in February.

Steve Scheer announced that Junior Master Gardener Camp will kick off January 29. Let him know if you are interested in participating in this event.

Extension Report and Remarks

Dr Chris Cooper introduced new Commercial Horticultural Agent Joseph Seago. He shared that the Agricenter has a new horticultural specialist who will be auditing the Master Gardener course and will have opportunities for volunteers to assist her throughout the year.

The new intern class started this Wednesday and was full of energy and a focus on youth, community, and volunteering. He asked members to match that energy.

Volunteer Opportunities/Announcements

Garden maintenance requests often come in from the community. Members are needed to help.

If any members know of meeting location options, please let Vice President Terry Merriweather know. We will not have the Agricenter room available for all meetings.

Next month the Spring Fling committee will have a presentation at 5pm. There will then be social time at 5:30 with 10+ members providing refreshments. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Agricenter on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

The Collierville Victory Garden workday on Monday is cancelled due to weather.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
Kelly Grayson, Recording Secretary