

Memphis Area Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024

Start Time: 4:33 p.m.

End Time: 5:43 p.m.

Location: Germantown Community Library Meeting Room

Board Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Steve Scheer	President
Terry Merriweather	Vice President
Ginny Fletcher	Treasurer
Jimmy Dickey	Vice Treasurer
Kelly Grayson	Recording Secretary
Malinda McDaniel	Corresponding Secretary
Kelsey Lyons	Ten Plus Director
Barbara Hodges	Senior Director
Susie Jabbour	Junior Director

Guests Present: Dr. Chris Cooper, Julie Morgan, Jan Orick

Presiding Chair: Steve Scheer, President **Minutes:** Kelly Grayson, Recording Secretary

- A. Call to order:** Steve Scheer called the meeting to order.
- B. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the August 1, 2024 board meeting were approved, as published.
- C. Extension Report and Announcements:** Jan Orick, Extension Program Assistant, shared the positive feedback she has received about intern graduation. Preparations are underway to begin the interview process for the incoming class. The *Welcome Home* workshop series, which includes 4 classes on various horticultural topics, is available for the community and begins in October. Sign up is ongoing by calling the Extension office.
- Dr Cooper mentioned his recent visits to the County Commission where he illustrated Extension's impact to the community. The newsletter that Extension has now helps share information about how various Extension projects inform and aid the community.
- D. Vice President:** Celeste Luckey Scott, Western Region Horticulture Extension Specialist, will present "Landscape Solutions: Reliable Plants for Screens and Blooms" at the September 12 member meeting.
- E. Treasurer:** Treasurer Ginny Fletcher presented the financial report.
- F. Committee Reports:** Julie Morgan, co-chair of the membership committee, reported that we currently have 387 active members. Dues renewal forms will be available in person and on the website by October 1.

G. Business:

- a. An anonymous suggestion was made that instead of not having a holiday party in December, members just provide all the food and the organization does not buy any. As previously discussed with membership, the difficulty of finding a room available at low to no cost in December is the most difficult part of the holiday party, in addition to many members expressing the opinion that December was already too busy a time.
- b. Christina Clapsadle suggested that the organization make efforts to ascertain why members do not renew so that we can improve retention. This has actually been done in the past and it was discovered that for most it was personal reasons and not organization-related reasons. The board discussed ideas for this type of follow-up interview in the future as well as ideas to improve the ability for members to learn about opportunities within the organization to find their niche. Board members decided to give this more thought for additional discussion and a decision at the next board meeting
- c. An anonymous suggestion was made that the organization needs to have a mechanism for providing feedback about projects to the board and not just committee heads. The board discussed ideas to make it easier for members to share this type of feedback, including the creation of a set of questions for each participant to answer after a project. Board members decided to give this more thought for additional discussion and a decision at the next board meeting
- d. The board discussed budget items that must be submitted by board members to see if any changes are needed.
- e. Terry Merriweather provided an Election Committee update. Each position currently has at least 1 nominee. Nominations close September 26 at 4 p.m.
- f. Preparations are underway for the Harvest Festival. Memphis Botanic Garden's Hardin Hall has been reserved. There will be a Centerpiece Showcase contest with 5 categories of winners for the 16 tables that will be set up. Information is on the website, along with an RSVP link. Sign-up sheets will be available in the office and at the meeting. All attendees are encouraged to bring something. Set-up will begin at 5 p.m. and food drop-off can begin then. There will be a selfie photo booth from 5 – 6 p.m. and live saxophone music playing softly in the background.

Adjournment: Steve Scheer, President, declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: October 3, 2024

Kelly Grayson, Recording Secretary

Steve Scheer, President