

Memphis Area Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 2, 2025

Start Time: 4:34 p.m.

End Time: 5:38 p.m.

Location: Agricenter Meeting Room

Board Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Terry Merriweather	President
Rick Clayton	Vice President
*Jimmy Dickey	Treasurer
Cindy Smith	Vice Treasurer
Paula Pilgrim	Recording Secretary
Suzanne Shown	Corresponding Secretary
Cheryl Lockhart	Ten Plus Director
*Barbara Hodges	Senior Director
Christy Gann	Junior Director
Steve Scheer	Past President
*absent	

Guests Present: Dr. Chris Cooper, Jan Orick, Julie Morgan, Ashley Burnett, Tom Rieman

Presiding Chair: Terry Merriweather, President

Minutes: Paula Pilgrim, Recording Secretary

- A. Call to order:** Terry Merriweather called the meeting to order.
- B. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the December 3, 2024, board meeting were approved, as published.
- C. Extension Report and Announcements:** After wishing everyone a Happy New Year, Dr. Cooper reported that the 2025 Intern classes begin Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00 pm.
- D. President:** No report
- E. Vice President:** Rick Clayton reported that the speaker for the January membership meeting is Anne Ballentine, Curator at Memphis Botanic Garden. She will discuss her management of the Woodland, Arboretum, and Pollinator Gardens as well as preview the MBG 2025 Spring Plant Sale.
- F. Treasurer:** No report
- G. Recording Secretary:** No report
- H. Corresponding Secretary:** No report
- I. Directors:** No report
- J. Committee Reports:**
 - a.** Julie Morgan, from Membership and Website Committees, reported 346 membership renewals were received. She recommended starting the renewal process one month earlier in the future.

K. Unfinished Business

- a.** Calendar/ Newsletter Project: Tom Reiman, of the Education Committee, presented a new educational opportunity after the discontinuation of the annual MAMG Gardening in the Mid-South Calendar. He suggested establishing a monthly public newsletter including links to educational articles, projects, and programs throughout Shelby County. Ashley Burnett, webmaster for MAMG addressed questions during the discussion. The board consensus was to have Tom head a Special Committee for the development of a public newsletter.
- b.** An exit survey for membership nonrenewal had been suggested by member Chris Clapsadle previously. Dr. Cooper reported that the membership retention rate was excellent during membership renewal 2025. Most nonrenewing members contact the extension office and report a change in life circumstances as the reason for becoming inactive. Steve Scheer will contact Ms. Clapsadle and report that there is no indication to pursue an exit survey at this time.
- c.** Bylaws and Rules Special Committee: The board was updated by Steve Scheer that the process of evaluating the bylaws which had been paused in September 2024 will resume. The committee will reconvene to complete work and present a slate of changes to the bylaws as early as possible this year.
- d.** Master Gardeners Present: Terry Merriweather, on behalf of Jan Dickey, reminded the board that tickets go on sale for this event on January 20, 2025. Tickets are limited to 200, and are expected to be in high demand. Purchase tickets on the Dixon Gallery and Gardens website.

Adjournment: Terry Merriweather, President, declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: February 6, 2025

Paula Pilgrim, Recording Secretary

Terry Merriweather, President