

Memphis Area Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026

Start Time: 4:31 p.m.

End Time: 5:49 p.m.

Location: Agricenter Meeting Room

Board Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Rick Clayton	President
Jan Dickey	Vice President
Cindy Smith	Treasurer
LeAnn Drewry	Vice Treasurer
Paula Pilgrim	Recording Secretary
*Barbara Hodges	Corresponding Secretary
Cheryl Lockhart	Ten Plus Director
Debbie Hill	Senior Director
Ricky Clarke	Junior Director
Terry Merriweather	Past President
* Absent	

Guests Present: Ashley Burnette, Christina Clapsadle

Presiding Chair: Rick Clayton, President

Minutes: Paula Pilgrim, Recording Secretary

- A. Call to order:** Rick Clayton called the meeting to order.
- B. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the June 4, 2026, meeting were approved, as published.
- C. Extension Report and Announcements:** Rick Clayton, on behalf of Jessica Maestas, reported that application to the 2027 Intern Class has closed. Approximately 100 applications were received. Anyone interested in assisting with the interview process should contact Linda Pittman. The Board was also reminded of the Great Tomato Contest on July 18, 2026. Additionally, she asked that interns be reminded to contact Susie Temple if they are still in need of volunteer hours prior to graduation.
- D. Vice President:** Jan Dickey reported that the July member meeting speakers will consist of three members who will each speak for 20 minutes. Under the guidance of Kim Lane, Mike Farnsworth will speak on "Home Grown Irrigation", Daniel Stewart will speak on "Pests in the Garden", and Neel Neelakantan will speak on "AI in the Garden". She reminded that the Senior members would provide snacks for the meeting. She also asked that each Board member bring a copy of the MAMG Standing Rules and Bylaws to each board meeting. This is to facilitate discussions regarding needed

modifications going forward. She reported that the Nominating Committee is now titled "Election Committee".

Jan also announced that the Annual MAMG party is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at Bartlett United Methodist Church gymnasium. This will be a picnic-style event with food, fun, and games.

- E. Treasurer:** Cindy Smith presented the financial report. There was brief discussion regarding the renewal of CDs held by MAMG, and the need to seek competitive rates.
- F. Recording Secretary: No report**
- G. Corresponding Secretary:** Cindy Smith, on behalf of Barbara Hodges, reported that a memorial donation for Kay McAdams will be made to Dixon Gallery and Gardens.
- H. Directors:** Ten Plus Director, Cheryl Lockhart, reported that volunteers are needed for the Hosta Trail.
- I. Committee Reports:** Ashley Burnette, Website Committee chair, gave a presentation on their mission and work. She reviewed various functions that can be used to serve the organization. Additionally, the process for submission of updates to the website was explained.
- J. President:** Rick Clayton moved to nominate Gail Karr as chairperson of the Zoo Crew. This was seconded and passed unanimously.
- K. Announcements:** Jan Dickey reminded that Intern Graduation is August 20, 2026, at Dixon Gallery and Gardens. Sign-up for refreshments and additional information will be shared at the Members Meeting.

Adjournment: Rick Clayton, President, declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting: August 6, 2026

Paula Pilgrim, Recording Secretary

Rick Clayton, President