

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.**

**MEETING HELD January 10th, 2023**

A meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Inc. was held in the Auditorium at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023.

Sixty one 61 Members attended the meeting.

President, Amy Weis, called the meeting to order at 10AM and opened with announcements, including:

- Naming the newly elected 2023 Board of Directors and identified those present in the room from the 2023 and 2022 Boards;
- Announced that the Board had met Jan 9th, 2023 and approved the 2023 budget;
- Announced plans to host a Fall Farm to Table fundraising event and invited Active MGs to join a committee to help plan that event;
- Mentioned restarting the grants committee for next year based on funds raised from the Farm to Table event;
- Reminded everyone to pay their dues for the 2023 year by Jan 31st;
- Reminded everyone to report hours for 2022 by Jan 15th;

The Second Order of Business was to recap minutes from the recent Board of Directors' meeting in which the Offices of Vice President Secretary and Treasurer were appointed to Hana Berres, Richard Smith and Debra Clisby, and to pass the proposed budget. This led into an announcement that Debra Clisby was already looking to step down as Treasurer feeling she had agreed to too much, and now we are in need of a new Treasurer. In the interim, Terry Barker is stepping in to fill the role until we appoint a new one. Following this, the President announced new committee appointments from the Board of Directors meeting including:

- Awards Committee: Ken Hall
- Membership Committee: All Board Members plus five additional veteran MGs - with the single purpose this year of conducting a Membership Drive

- Communications Committee: The President announced that the Roots and Shoots are still being sent through email and if anyone does not receive the newsletter to please notify Kathy Rostand, or anyone on the board. Also announced the need for a Social Media Person.
- Community Service Committee: Announcements given on behalf of Bunny Fite by Vice President, Hana Berres. She announced volunteer opportunities at ACIPCO-Finley Community Garden on Thursday, Jan 12th from 9-11am; Mid-High Ore Line Train Community Garden; and Lisa McNair's garden on Monday Jan 16th 2023 (MLK Day) from 10am-12pm, and 12pm-2pm; and a plant propagation opportunity that can be done at home - there were flyers on this as well with Bunny Fite (858)-442-6403 and Laura Kezar's (205-908-3715) contact info. She also brought Stormwater Calendars to hand out.
- Grants Committee: Dissolved until further notice
- Governance Documents Committee: President, Amy Weis announced she was seeking volunteers to join this new committee; and that the reason to form this committee was because of our new administrative status as an incorporated nonprofit seeking 501(c)3 tax exemption. The aim is to develop a Policies and Procedures Manual which would include our new bylaws. She noted the bylaws would likely also need continued revision.
- Hospitality: Ruth Varnell - could use some help
- Programs: There is no program committee this year but the President then announced the upcoming Awards Ceremony and Potluck Luncheon on February 14th (Valentine's Day) and encouraged everyone to bring an item. At this luncheon, Bethany O'Rear will be the guest speaker, talking about what it means to be a Master Gardener. Awards will be given at 10AM and then the potluck will start at 11AM.
- Sunshine Committee: President, Amy Weis announced that this committee was formed last year to send greeting cards to MGs so it was important to make sure everyone could login and update their address in the Directory.

After committee announcements, President Amy Weis, gave announcements from Bethany O'Rear who could not attend due to another conflicting event. The first was that the 2023 New Master Gardener class was closed and even 2024 has a waiting list. Applause were given for this great news! Second, Kate Musso is also starting the GPIC training again. If

anyone wants to help volunteer, please get in touch with Kate. Third, there will be a Community Garden Expo on February 21st also. More information is on the way. It will be about growing food and has volunteer opportunities.


Without further announcements or news, the President introduced the Speaker, Steve Bender, aka “The Grumpy Gardener” who gave a rousing speech about common misconceptions that people have about gardening in his talk titled, “Busting Garden Myths”.

There being no further business the meeting was duly adjourned at 11:30am.

Chairman of the Board



ATTEST:

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Secretary

