DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

MEETING HELD March 14th, 2023

A meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Inc. was held in the Auditorium at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023. Fifty 50 Members were in attendance.

President, Amy Weis, called the meeting to order at 10:07AM and opened with announcements, as well as a motion to approve the February members meeting minutes as follows:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

- BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes from the February 14th members meeting were approved.

Second Order of Business was to give the Treasurer's report for March, but Amy announced that Treasurer Cindy Funderburk having an accident and breaking her leg and right foot and having to go into surgery. The Vice President and Secretary are taking checks and deposits to the bank at this time. There was no treasurer's report this month as a result. The budget is in the Roots and Shoots.

Third Order of Business was Announcements from AMGA, Phyllis Clay came and gave a report from AMGA and announced the following items:

- The AMGA Board met last Tuesday at Petals from Past.
- The State Awards committee is thinking of changing the 10,000 hour Reach for the Stars Award from a card and pin to either a card or pin.
- She reported that the AMGA Board was encouraging all MGs to consider donating to the Transformation Garden in Auburn. If you would like to send a donation, please mail the check to the state board and make it payable to AMGA and include the Transformation Garden in the Subject line.
- There is a committee now working on historical records of AMGA to avoid records being stored across computers and peoples homes.
- There will be a discussion about that at the state conference.

- The policies manual has been updated for state organization which can be accessed on the AMGA website.
- The Advisory Counsel is doing a great job and making plans.
- Plans to host a leadership workshop in Auburn are underway, so far they are getting a lot of feedback from LMGAs on that. There have been two zoom meetings, one in November and one in February. Amy Weis attended the February meeting. (This note was updated after speaking with Phyllis and Amy further to get clarity).
- For communications, in the AMGA Pathways Newsletter, the deadline is the 15th of the month and should be sent to Carolyn Edwards.
- The Endowment Fund goal was reached.
- AMGA State Conference is April 3-5 in Tuscaloosa. Deadline for registration is the 15th. Agenda is on the AMGA Website.
- In 2024, the state conference will be in Baldwin County. In 2025, it will be Autauga.
- So far there are 2040 paid members of AMBA, and 13,086 total members at large.
- Regarding Project Funding, quick reminder that it is only for MG and not the extension agents. We have not had a problem with that in JCMGA.
- Speakers Bureau. There are 11 members for the Speakers Bureau. They need more MGS to sign up. You don't have to be an Advanced MG. You can go online to apply. Just because you are on Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau doesn't mean you are on AMGA's.
- Fall conference will be in Huntsville.
- 50th year for MG in the nation, look for ways we will be celebrating.

Awards Committee Announcements: Ken has stars and badges for people that ordered them.

Communications Committee Announcements: Advertising for new roots and shoots editor. Kathy Rostrand has resigned from that role. Please thank her for all her work when you see her. Two people have come forward with an interest in taking that on. We also lost Ann Gray as the Constant Contact person who would send email blasts and help keep our email list up to date, because she moved to Virginia and she did Constant Contact for years, so hopefully both MGs interested can be placed in one of those roles.

Community Service Committee Announcements:

- An updated volunteer sheet was handed out
- There are several events they are still looking for volunteers for.
- This Thursday they will be planting transplants from Jones Valley teaching farm.
- A new fall garden will be planted in Hoover on Thursday afternoon.
- Turkey Creek volunteers meet every Friday at 9am.
- Grace Clein community is moving a food pantry to Morgan United Methodist Church and putting in ground and raised bed gardens in. They have a big event coming up. 200 other volunteers will be there and they are going to need help as Master Gardeners on instructions on what to do.
- Midfield Fire Station will be harvesting lettuce and spinach.
- MG Display Tables will be at Hoover Farmers Market, a BBG plant sale and the Southside Library where they will be hosting a seed exchange on April 1st.
- Homewood High School needs help with raised beds.
- If anyone overdid it with cucumbers or tomatoes, Community Service Committee can take your unused transplants

Fundraising Committee Announcements:

- Will be offering aprons with MG Logo at Members Meetings and other Members Events for a $15 donation, starting today.

Hospitality Committee Announcements:

- All members are new and they would like to start doing things a little differently. They would like to do a little signup sheet at each meeting for the next month, so if you want to bring something to the next meeting please sign up today so we know if we are going to have enough.

Policies and Procedures Committee Announcements:

- Met yesterday and are starting to draft a new policies and procedures manual following Baldwin County MGAS examples. We are hoping to have the draft by the beginning of may for everyone to review.

Final Announcements were from ACES Extension Agent, Bethany O'Rear

- Tiger Giving Day goal of $10,000 and was exceeded by $1300.
- ACES are working on pop-up gardens and Grow More, Give More Gardens across the state.
- Master Gardener volunteers are exploding in numbers statewide.
- Beginners Tomato Workshop will be hosted in Jefferson County towards the end of April. Look out for more info on that

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the business meeting was concluded at 9:30am

The Vice President came up to introduce guest speaker Jimmy Stiles and he gave a fascinating and entertaining program on venomous snakes in Alabama.