Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Members Meeting Minutes

12 March 20242/ Auditorium / Birmingham Botanical Gardens / 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham AL 35223

The Educational Program, A Presentation on the Transformation Garden began at 10:13 AM.

Roger Clarke introduced Devonne Ellis, AMGA President; Jordan Mosley, Director of Advancement, Department of Agriculture, Auburn University; and Kerry Smith, State Coordinator for the Master Gardener Program, ACES, Auburn University. Kerry Smith & Jordan gave a presentation on the Transformation Garden and Devonne Ellis talked briefly about AMGA. The three of them including Roger took questions.

Key takeaways were:

- The Transformation Garden is a sixteen-acre development by Auburn University on the last large piece of undeveloped land between the University campus and the town of Auburn. The development will include nineteen gardens dedicated to both teaching and research, plus support areas, classrooms, and an educational pavilion. Combined these facilities will encompass every aspect of plant-based agriculture: row crops, fruits and vegetables, ornamentals, medicinal plants, landscape structures, and more.

- Alabama Master Gardeners Association has committed $200k to the TG over five years and are on track to make good on that promise. AMGA approved a $40k donation from its coiffers, as well as its share of annual conference and fall seminar funds to help meet that goal. We, the Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, have donated a total of $5k between 2023 and 2024. Other Individual local Master Gardener Associations, like Jefferson County, have donated funds as well as individual Master Gardeners. Because of this large sum, Auburn's Department of Agriculture have given Alabama Master Gardeners the naming rights to the pedestrian trail that runs through the garden. The name we have chosen will be announced at the AGMA Conference in Daphne this April.

- If you would like to donate to the Transformation Garden, please make a check payable to "Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc." and write in the "For" line that it is for the "Transformation Garden". AMGA & Auburn have asked all Local Associations to handle donations to the TG in this way.

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Business Meeting called to order at 10:55 by Amy Weis

First Order of Business - Approval of Minutes of February 12 Member Meeting - Amy Weis

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Second Order of Business - February 2024 Financial Report - Cindy Funderburk

JCMGA has fulfilled the pledge of $5k to the Transformation Garden at Auburn University. Starting balance of 16,156.00. Deposits of 865.00 and expenditures of 652.00, leaving a balance of 16,368.00. The operating reserve of 12,629.00, with a CD to mature in May 2024 of 15,000.00. There is a grant balance of 6,530.00 and 11,529.00 in liabilities.

Third Order of Business - Presidents Announcements - Amy Weis

No Announcements. Defer to Kerry Smith for ongoing updates on the new Service Report, and a reminder to please sign the Memorandum of Understanding by February 29th.

Fourth Order of Business - Reports from Committees

Community Service Committee - Laura Kezar, Co-Chair

Laura announced the ANNO Project (Alabama Not Number One) event on April 27th at New Rising Star Baptist Church In East Lake from 10:00 to 12:00. Please come learn about this new partnership project with UAB focused on improving cardiac health.

Vice President's Program Announcmenet - Next month's program, the Annual Plant Swap, will be led by Terri Barker. Please bring 1-2 well-established transplants in pots or store bought plants. Exotic invasive plants and seeds will not be eligible for the swap. For full rules, see the infographic in the Roots & Shoots newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

ATTEST BY:

Janet Humphreys

Janet, Humphreys, Secretary

Amy Weis, President