DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

MEETING HELD February 14th, 2023

A meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Inc. was held in the Auditorium at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023.

Fifty-one 51 Members attended the meeting.

President, Amy Weis, called the meeting to order at 10AM.
and opened with announcements, as well as a motion to approve the January 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 January members meeting were approved.

The Second Order of Business was to recap minutes from the recent Board of Directors' meeting on Jan 26th in which the Office of Treasurer was appointed to Cindy Funderburk. Following this, the President announced new committee appointments from the Board of Directors meeting including:

- Awards Committee: Ken Hall
- Auditing Committee: Terri Barker, Jan Street, Rick Cybulsky, Gary Walker
- Communications Committee: Kathy Rostand, Richard Smith (webmaster), Diane Remick (former webmaster - now Facebook Editor)
- Community Service Committee: Marian "Bunny" Fite, Cathy O'Sheal, Laura Kezar
- Fundraising Committee: Darwin Bell, Susan McNamara, Katherine Cory, Bethany O'Rear and Amy Weis
    - Planning to do farm to table tasting event - would like to do Fall of 2023
        - They have set a deadline for getting the venue, sponsors, a chef and they are working to make that deadline.

        - If interested in helping with this event, there are lots of things that need done.
        - If anyone has connections with sponsors, we are actively looking
        - We will be featuring and working with local farmers in the area
        - Goal is to pair culinary chef students with farms to create local and feature dishes and create tasting stations
    - Also selling the aprons again. If interested in buying with the logo on it, let us know.
- Membership Committee this year looks a lot different and really only had one goal which was to do the membership drive. [Twelve (12) Members of the committee] called 546 people. Have not gotten through to everybody but still work on that.
    - As result, they have been able to reconnect with a lot of MGs; get a lot of dues upfront this year on schedule; update Constant Contact's Email Listing; MGs contact info; help MGs that needed to transfer to other counties; and identify where we need to update the Directory.
    - Amy noted the wonderful conversations and connections made through this effort and offered her thanks to all that were involved.
- Grants Committee:
    - Amy noted that this committee was dissolved last year, but we still have funds and projects that need them so we need to restart this committee.
    - For example, we submitted three applications to AMGA for project funding but due to AMGA Policy, they could only fund one.
    - Amy asked for anyone interested in serving on the grants committee, to let her or any board member know, or if you have a project that needs funding, to please let us know.
- Sunshine Committee: Jennye McCreary
    - She sends all birthday and other greeting cards to all active members;
    - She has been sending out a lot more lately because the Membership Drive has shed light on some struggles that our non-active veteran MGs have been having and we wanted to follow up with a nice card.

Third Order of Business, committee reports were given:

Marian "Bunny" Fite for Community Service came up and discussed volunteer opportunities and where to find those on the calendar. She also mentioned the Community Garden Expo that was to be on February 21st

Fourth Order of Business Treasurer, Cindy Funderburk, followed with the budget report.

- As of Dec 23rd, the balance in checking was, $7929.06;
- We received in $3,303,03 dues.
- Our expenses totalled $686.58.
- As of Jan 24, the balance in checking was, $10545.51.
- We still have 2 money markets $23,060.50 and the money market grant balance $5525.92.
- We are in transition of all three bank accounts because we have a new EIN #. She is still waiting for deposit slips and checks.
- We have a Paypal delay issue because of the new EIN as well. We have changed everything except the name and may have to just create a new paypal account. Money is still going in but its being held.

Cindy made a special note of a generous donation from one of our members for $5000 and put that into the reserve money market account.

Fifth Order of Business was a report back from the Advisory Council by new AC Representative, Mitzi Owen, who replaced Phyllis Clay this year. Phyllis is still on the AMGA Board of Directors, as is Fletcher Harvey (Parliamentarian) and Roger Clarke (Endowment Committee of AMGA). Amy, Mitzi, Fletcher Harvey and Pat Cosgrove attended the AC meeting at Petals from the Past two weeks ago.

Mitzi gave the following report:

> The AMGA State Conference is in Tuscaloosa this year on April 3rd-5th. It is lots of fun and they have had 241 MGs sign up so far . It's a great opportunity for JeffCO MGs because it is close enough that we can make day trips if we want. There will be lots of vendors, good programs and networking with MGs all over state
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> In 2024 the conference will be on April 23-24 hosted by Baldwin county, in the Daphne/Fairhope area.

Longleaf in Anniston are having a Spring Garden Symposium March 16th and you must be registered by March 8th to go. They are having keynote renowned Azalea breeder Buddy Lee and another speaker from the Atlanta Botanical Gardens also.

Mobile County would like you to know that the Festival of Flowers is on again this year from March 23-25th. It is not something they put on but it is the largest flower show in the Southeast. Go online to purchase tickets and learn more.

Lee County Master Gardeners are hosting a garden tour of private gardens in Auburn and Opelika on May 14th and May 15th. The tour is their biennial fundraiser for LCMGA community projects. Presumably more information will follow on how to sign-up soon.

An update was given on the Transformation Garden in Auburn that will be on 16 acres. AMGA is one of the sponsors and they have pledged about $200k statewide. There will be a green pathway through gardens and AMGA are sponsoring a portion of that..

AMGA asked for speakers noting they only have had 8 people sign up for the statewide speakers bureau. If you are interested contact Mitzi, Amy or Phyllis Clay or go online to AMGA's website to sign up.

It was reminded that MGs should be logging in their hours regularly. Last year, the average value of volunteer hours assigned by the IRS was $25 per hour and now is up to almost $30. In total, Alabama MGs have volunteered about 204,000 hours across the state in 2022 and made contacts with 2.3M people. The average volunteer hours per master gardener per annum was 87 and the number of interns was 380. There are now 1,210 certified active master gardeners. Grow more, give more donated 16.5 tons of produce. The helpline made 168,000 contacts

This is the 50th anniv of Master Gardeners. It started first in Tacoma, WA. AMGA would like to have a celebration in September and are asking for ideas about what we could do for our state.

President, Amy Weis, followed with a few more announcements.

She added that another new committee, the Policy and Procedures Committee had been formed to review the new nonprofit bylaws that were published last year and to develop a Policies and Procedures Manual. This new committee will be a standing committee and will be in charge of keeping the bylaws in review every year and suggesting updates to these important documents as needed. This Committee includes Amy Weis and Charlie Faulkner and Sandy McCarthy. They already had one meeting last month to start outlining the Manual.

Without further business this portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Ken Hall then came up to give awards for Reach for the Stars. There were 34 stars awarded, the details of which are listed on our website.

Bethany O'Rear, Regional Extension Agent then awarded Phyllis Clay her Advanced MG Certificate and asked if any MGs are interested in advanced MG certification, they should get in touch with her to select a topic.

Bethany also gave announcements:

Forge Breast Cancer Survivor Center needs cuttings for a flower arranging workshop; she suggested aucubas, camellias, ivy ferns, or anything blooming. New MG Elizabeth Vander Kamp is working with the Forge Cancer Survivor Group and doing spring wreaths for them. Please send an email to Bethany if you are bringing anything.

Tiger Giving Day is coming up and this year will include Grow More, Give More as an option for your donations. If you are looking for a place to make

a donation of any size, please consider this. If you go to https://rise.auburn.edu/ you will find info on how to donate.

Bethany then gave a presentation on the importance of being a master gardener volunteer.

There being no agenda items, the education portion of the meeting was duly adjourned at 11:30am and followed by the Potluck Luncheon. This was the first year since 2020 that the Awards Ceremony was held in person with the Potluck; 36 MGs signed up to bring food items.

ATTEST:

Richard Smith

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Secretary

Amy Weis

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Chairman of the Board