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

MEETING HELD JUNE 6th, 2023

A meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Inc. was held in the auditorium at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, June 6th, 2023.

Forty (40) Attendees were present.

Vice President, Hana Berres, called the meeting to order at 10:01AM.

First Order of Business: Approval of April 11th and May 9th Minutes. In May, President Amy Weis had suggested that we delay the approval of the minutes until June 13th. There was no opposition so this item was carried over. Jan Street made the motion to approve the April and May minutes and Fletcher Harvey seconded.

Second Order of Business: Announcements. Announcements were given by Chairpersons or appropriate representatives in alphabetical order as follows.

ACES Announcements by Bethany O'Rear, as follows:

This year's Master Gardener Class has finished and several interns were present at the meeting.

Master Gardeners Class Registration. Registration for the Master Gardeners class will be open from August 1st to August 30th. The class is scheduled to start in February 2024. Bethany mentioned that due to the new system and requirements, once registration is closed, she won't be able to make any changes. She already has a waiting list, and those on the waiting list will receive the information first, followed by others. The 2024 class can accommodate only 40 people.

Committee Announcements by Hana Berres.

Advisory Council Minutes. Mitzi Owens and Fletcher Harvey passed on reporting back from the latest AC Meeting on May 2nd stating no new or significant news to report.

Auditing Committee. None given.

Board Meeting Report from June 6th by Vice President, Hana Berres;

a. Funding for the Community Service Committee to purchase items/materials to have four working kits available for checkout. Also to include printed brochures/flyers. This will give us kits for checkout at events to help educate the public.

b. Approval of funding for Auburn University Transformation Garden for 2023. Fundraiser planned for 2024 for additional funding to help expand their efforts. In March of 2024, we will have a special presentation on the project.

c. Master Gardeners receive grants. This past year a Jefferson County Master Gardener received a grant.

d. Approval of a donation to the 2024 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference of Alabama Association of county Agricultural Agents and Specialists.

Communications Committee Announcements. The editorial positions have been filled. Yawntreshia Coleman (2022) is now in charge of the Roots and Shoots. Jessyca McKnight (2023) is also assisting her.

Community Service Committee Announcements. Hana Berres is the new Board liaison. Check the website for volunteer opportunities.

Fundraising Committee Announcements.

Hospitality Committee Announcements. Given by Hospitality Chair, Katherine Ennis. Katherine requested members to continue bringing refreshments each month.

Policy and Procedure Committee Announcements. None given as the President is currently out of town.

Program Committee. Blythe Leisher (2023) is assisting Hana Berres on this committee. If you are interested, we have one more vacancy to fill.

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Reunion Cocktail Party. It will be in the Ireland Room on September 19th, 2023. Please bring heavy appetizers. We will have cocktails and other drinks available.

Graduation has been planned as a luncheon. More information to follow. It will be the second week in November. It will be from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM.

Remaining Vacancies. Hana stated that we are looking to fill the following positions:

New Archivist Position. This is a position we need to have to better keep track of our important records i.e., minutes, especially now that we are a 501(c)3.

Grants Committee. Hana repeated this announcement from previous months as well, reiterating that there is a need to revive the grants committee now that we are a 501(c)3 and that we may need to consider renaming it as the Project Funding Committee to better reflect the intent of monetary awards that the Association intends to give.

Hana stated that Amy is actively recruiting members for these posts and would like to fill them as soon as possible. Interested members should contact her to learn more.

Financial Report. Refer back to the Roots and Shoots.

There being no further business, Hana Berres introduced Sarah Bell from Jones Valley Teaching Farm who gave a rousing and educational speech on Fall Vegetable Gardening.

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ATTEST BY:

Richard Smith

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Secretary

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Chairman of the Board