

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

MEETING HELD AUGUST 8th, 2023

A meeting of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners, Inc. was held in the auditorium at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, August 8th, 2023. Sixty-Five (65) Attendees were present.

President, Amy Weis, called the meeting to order at 10:05AM.

First Order of Business:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the July 11th Members Meeting were unanimously approved.

Second Order of Business: Budget Report, Cynthia Funderburk.

Cindy read the Financial report as published in the August Roots & Shoots. We received \$5,315 in deposits including a \$5,000 donation received last month. The Board agreed to use that \$5,000 donation to go towards the AMGA Transformation Garden; \$2,500 this year and \$2,500 next year. We had \$1,288 in expenditures last month. Our current liabilities are \$10,756.48 and our ending balances on July 31st were as follows:

- Primary Checking: \$15,111.10
- Operating Reserve Money Market: \$27,560.27
- Grant Money Market: \$6,527.27

Third Order of Business: Announcements

ACES Announcements, Bethany O’Rear.

None as Bethany was in MG College leadership training.

President’s Announcements, Amy Weis.

Forthcoming Updates to the Hours Reporting System. In 2024, the reporting system will get a revamp. Updates will go live January 1st, 2024. There will be fewer categories organized by dropdown menus, and no more descriptions. There will be presentations on these updates organized by Auburn this Fall so stay tuned.

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Intern Graduation Banquet. This will be held in Auburn on December 15th. We will still have a local celebration for interns but it will be during our regular November 14th Members Meeting as a luncheon rather than a dinner banquet. We encourage everyone to attend.

Helpline. If you would like to help please let Susan McNamara know. Jefferson county is now only assigned to Friday afternoons from 1-4pm and it can be done from home. There is a new schedule posted at acesagmg.site where you can sign up for shifts. Shifts can be doubled up if you want to work with someone as well.

Board and Leadership Meeting Today. A meeting of the Board of Directors and Committee Members will be immediately after the program today. All members are encouraged to stay and listen in.

Committee Announcements

Advisory Council, Amy Weis standing in for Mitzy Owens.
Auburn together with AMGA and a Steering Committee consisting of MGs across the state have been working on a Master Gardener Strategic Plan this year. It includes a Mission Statement, and five-year goals which we have never had before. To learn about this, please go to the acesagmg.site and look for the 'Strategic Plan' button on the green banner at the top of the page. You will also be able to see who has been involved.

Auditing Committee. No announcements.

Communications Committee. No announcements.

Community Service Committe, Hana Berres. Hana showed a Powerpoint presentation (photo slideshow) at the meeting, to showcase what community outreach has occurred over the last month. She reminded anyone working on projects to please send pictures to share.

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Fundraising Committee. No announcements.

Hospitality Committee. No announcements.

Policy and Procedure Committee. No announcements.

Program Committee, Hana Berres.

Reunion Cocktail Party. 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 November 14th, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Come celebrate interns as they become official MGs and see what they have done! There will be an amazing Powerpoint presentation showcasing their work. The cost is \$15 and it will be catered by Tre Luna. It will be a hot delicious lunch with dessert. You will need to RSVP via a link that will be sent in an invitation by email, and prepay via PayPal or you can drop off a check with Annette.

There being no further business, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the business meeting concluded at 10:18am and the Education Program Began.

Hana Berres introduced Phyllis Clay who gave a very educational speech on “Basil”. She even shared her famous Basil Ice Cream recipe as well as many other secrets that the world needs to know about this amazing herb.

ATTEST BY:

Richard Smith

Secretary

Chairman of the Board