

BIG COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

JUNE 18, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 6:55 pm by Jackie Sledge, President. It was determined there was a quorum present.
2. Review April business meeting minutes. Motion to accept John Geib, seconded Beth Hamaty.
3. Review April treasurers report ending total bank balance for April was \$80,235.42.
4. Events/workdays/meetings – reviewed.
5. Committee updates:
 - A. Monthly awards - for April; Busy Bee – Doris Oltman, You Rock – Fran Crumpler. For May; Busy Bee – Wendy Porter, You Rock – Stephanie McKee.
 - B. State awards – We submitted 6 and received 6 awards as follows:
 - a. Youth-Other – Long learning Center Programs – 2nd place
 - b. Workshop-Presentation - Tomato-Thon – 3rd place
 - c. Written-recorded Educational Content – Weekly Garden articles on Website & Facebook – 1st place
 - d. Research-Fly Research – 1st place
 - e. Outstanding individual Master Gardener – 1st place
 - f. Outstanding Master Gardener Association – 2nd place
 - C. Budget/finance – Sales generated through square from the spring plant sale \$32,668.03, expenses \$11,247.28, profit of \$21,420.75.
 - D. Membership – total hours for April were 1,589.25 volunteer hours (VOL) and 715.00 Education hours (CE). 2,304.02 total hours for April 2024 reported by 50 Master Gardeners and Interns. Total hours for May were 382.00 volunteer hours (VOL) and 216 Education hours (CE). 598 total hours for May 2024.
 - E. Master Gardener training – 27 Interns have completed the test, 1 pending.
 - F. Spring plant sale – Success! Our Fall plant sale October 7 – 13, 2024. 2025 Spring plant sale April 6 – 13 in the Modern living mall. Mark your calendars.
 - G. **Thank you** to Donna Long-Wolfer for the use of her home for our Spring fling picnic.
 - H. Projects –

Demo beds - at the Modern living mall will be scheduling a work day soon. We continue to need volunteers to water and clean out weeds in all beds.

Swenson House – several special events are being planned, MG are continuing to prepare the grounds. A stone was placed in the gardens recognizing Master Gardeners. KTAB will be here Monday the 24th at 10:00.

The Expo planters – additional plants have been added to replace expired ones. Each planter has been numbered.

Sweet water community gardens - Julia Tinney asked for advise on protecting plants from the South wind which has been beating up the plants.
 - I. Recurring special events – Stephanie McKee proclaimed success of our annual picnic. Dates for 2024 Christmas Party December 10th, charity choice will be for 3 years, New Beginnings is in their 2nd year. 2025 Bugs & Blooms picnic May 17th. Pot luck and gluten free options will continue to be welcomed. Anyone wishing to host the picnic please

contact Stephanie. Garden tours will now be a part of the recurring special events. A fall 2024 tour of Master Gardeners greenhouses may be in our future, stay tuned.

- J. Resources – continue to have our website and FB pages updated.
 - K. Training /programs
 - Saturday seminars – June 29th vegetables & herbs. We have July and August as well.
 - Library programs – continue as scheduled.
 - Advanced training - no additional opportunities at this time.
 - L. Strategic planning committee – will meet Thursday the 20th of June. This meeting is for the President, past Presidents, and President elect.
 - M. Maple Street property – the county agreed to move the north fence to the property line. A clean-up day was scheduled June 13th, a lot was done but needs more, watch for more volunteer opportunities.
 - N. Thomas Elementary School – Chrystal McCutchen updated us on the herbicide applications at the School.
 - O. WASP Museum – Beth Hamaty will announce a work day soon.
 - P. Hope Gardens – work day June 19th is scheduled, contact Lauren Clark for information.
6. Director’s meeting - Scheduled for August 2nd.
7. Old Business
- a. Policy & procedures/Bylaws review – has been started
 - b. Repair of trailer – needs to be moved and stored, decision on the trailers fate is still pending. Kathy Turner will investigate renting a U-Haul vs a new purchase.
 - c. Use of Chike grant - a second survey will be sent out with suggestions to be voted on.
8. New business
- a. Garden tours – were a success! Thank you to all that participated.
 - b. Organization of storage cabinet – i.e. square equipment, label maker and MG supplies; this cabinet will be locked. The cabinet has been labeled as Master Gardeners.
 - c. T shirts – The public has expressed interest in purchasing T shirts; Dawnyel Luckie has contacted the State for more information.
 - d. Extension office news – will be closed Wednesday June 19th. New Intern Lanie Allen has joined the Extension office.
 - e. Open discussion – Volunteers are need for Wings on the Wind (WOW) September 21st at the Abilene State Park 10:00 – 2:00. Contact Lauren Clark for further information & to volunteer.
 - f. Second greenhouse – a 12’ x 12’ greenhouse to be placed between the existing greenhouse and storage shed, Terry Shuffield motioned and Beth Hamaty seconded, \$15,000.00 budget passed.
 - g. Rain barrels – public has expressed interest in purchasing rain barrels; we purchased 18, 2 have been completed and sold for \$50.00 each. More need to be put together.
9. Motion to adjourn at 8:30 was made by Beth Hamaty and seconded by Dawn Graham.
10. For VMS:
- a. 1.50 hours (VOL) Association meeting – monthly association business meeting
 - b. 1 hour (CE) Association meeting – monthly continuing education class before business meeting
 - c. 1 hour Other – food, if you brought food.