

BIG COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS

MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

March 12, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Jackie Sledge, President. It was determined there was no quorum present.
2. Review Jan and Feb Business Meeting Minutes was postponed due to no quorum.
3. Review Feb Treasurer's Report – Pepper Palooza left the association with a deficit of \$ 163.80 but when extra cook books are returned to Amazon, this will be balanced out. Major expenses for the month of Feb included purchase of shade cloth for the greenhouse, hanging baskets, and "You Rock" awards. Ending total bank balance for Feb'24 was \$ 61,067.55.
4. Events/Workdays/Meetings – Reviewed
5. Committee Updates
 - A. Monthly Awards – Ann Clark presented Fran Crumpler with the Busy Bee award and Kathy Turner with the You Rock award.
 - B. Budget/Finance – no business
 - C. Membership – total hours for February were 1316.50 for 74 MG and interns. This included 627 Vol hours and 689 educ hours.
 - D. MG Intern Training – 28 interns continue
 - E. Plant Sale – Spring sale is schedule April 13 with the ML mall available for set up, preparation, etc 4/8 through 4/14.
Fall plant sale will be Oct 12, 2024 in the ML mall (reserved 10/7-10/13)
 - F. Projects

Demo Beds/Modern Living Mall – continue need for volunteers to water and clean out weeds.

Swenson House – Several special events are being planned at Swenson House to MG are preparing the grounds.

Zoo – Wild Days will be held the week of spring break and volunteers are needed to man the MG table.

WASP Museum – Beth Hamaty requested times and volunteers for workdays for weeding, for homecoming at the museum the end of April. Following discussion it was determined Sunday afternoon 3/24 at 2pm would be a good starting point.

Thomas Elementary Project – Saturday 8 to 1 is the work day to prepare the area for raised beds.
- G. Recurring Special Events

Picnic rescheduled to May 18 at Donna Long Wolfer's home in the evening. More info will be forthcoming.

Christmas Party will be in the Big Country hall Dec 10.
- H. Resources – continue to have website and fb updated.

Garden Articles on Website – A representative from the Abilene Reporter News said the paper wants to include more articles reg local events/information.
She will attend events and write the material.

- I. Training/Programs
 - Saturday Seminars – No Sat Seminar in April due to Easter Holiday. However, the Sat Seminar on April 27 will be on propagation.
 - Library – Continues as scheduled.
 - Adv Training Oppt – no additional oppt at this time
 - J. Strategic Planning Committee will meet Wed, 3/10 at 10am. This meeting is for president, past presidents, and president elects.
 - K. Maple St – a meeting is being planned for next week.
 - 6. Director's Meeting – This will be held in conjunction with the state assoc meeting on April 24. Registration for the virtual seminars, etc is \$85 and ends 4/16.
 - 7. Old Business
 - A. P&P/ByLaws will be discussed at the strategic planning mtg next week.
 - B. Trailer Repair – An estimate of \$2000 has been rec'd for parts and labor to repair the trailer. Ples reminded the group that the second axle is as old as the first one which burned up. Exec Committee approved \$5000 be allocated for a new trailer. In the interim, Donna Long Wolfer has offered use of her trailer this spring. Without a quorum, the assoc couldn't vote. The proposal and vote will be made by email.
 - C. Use of Chike Grant – A survey of membership rec'd 20 responses with many of the suggestions already budgeted. A list of items suggested and NOT budgeted will be sent to membership for them to itemize their choices.
 - 8. New Business
 - Garden Tours – The first tour will likely be one of MG's greenhouses on May 4.
 - T-shirts – It is time to order new t-shirts so interns will have one to wear at the plant sale and members who want new ones can also order. Several suggestions for a "logo" were offered.
 - 9. Ext Office News – Dawnyel shared Steve's appreciation for the MG's contributions to the Farm and Ranch Show and Women's Fair.
 - 10. Open Discussion- Cook books on use of "peppers" are still available for purchase before they are returned to Amazon. Contact Kathy Turner if interested.
 - Nelda Lawrence's Cranberry Salsa won first prize at the Pepper Palooza cook off. Her recipe will be made available in the newsletter for members and in email to attendees.
 - 11. Motion to Adjourn at 7:30pm was made by Ples McKee and seconded by Dawn Graham.
- For VMS: 1 ½ hrs exec
1 hr business meeting