

BIG COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS

Business MEETING

January 21, 2025

Present: Jackie Sledge, Kathy Turner, Dawn Graham, Pleas & Stephanie McKee, Rachel Perkins, Julie James, Kristel Usener, Don Miller, Ronnie & Julia Tinney, Roger Salisbury, Ann Clark, John & Lucy Geib, Sean Christin, Susie & Steve Scott, Karen Saunders, Kulani McDermott, Liz Throckmorton, Wendy Porter, Jean Seymore, Jocelyn Furr, James Smelson, Fran Crumpler, Doris Oltman and Dawnyel (Extension)

- a) Meeting called to order at _____ by Dawn Graham, President.
- b) Review of December meeting minutes
- c) Review December treasurers report – _____ ; accepted as presented by all members.
- d) Events/workdays/meetings – reviewed.
- e) Committee updates:
 - A. Monthly awards –
 - B. Budget/finance –
 - C. Membership – December hours
318.50 volunteer hours (VOL)
47.75 Education hours (CE)
366.25 total hours for December 2024 reported by 30 Master Gardeners and Interns.
 - D. Plant sale – April 12, 2025 Spring plant sale; the Modern living mall is reserved for April 6 – 13. Fall plant sale, October 11, 2025; building reserved October 6-12.
 - E. Projects –All projects need to be cleaned, maintained and mulched
Demo beds -
Swenson House –
The Expo planters -
Sweetwater community gardens - Dr. Lipke's plans approved for Wind Break by Hospital Foundation
Hope Garden –
WASP Museum –
Thomas Elementary School –
Good neighbor Project – Completed - Abilene-Callahan Baptist Association:
2058 Marshall Street
 - F. **Recurring special events –** Stephanie McKee
 - 2025 Spring/Summer Picnic: To take place at Donna Wolford's home. Theme: Bee all a Buzz about Pollinators'.
 - Soup Party 10/18/25 at Donna Wolfer's home
 - Garden/Greenhouse tours potentially June 7, 14, 2025.
 - Christmas Party date to be confirmed later. Charity suggestions welcome and will be decided later.

- Previous charity contributions from 2024: >\$340 and 4 loads of donations of personal care items.
- Discussion of Field Trips on Saturdays. This would involve sign-up ahead of time and agreement to share in gas expenses.

- G. Resources – continue to have our website and FB pages updated. Newsletter - Big thanks to Kulani and Natasha! Garden Articles – Sarah solicits submissions! Jocelyn proofreads all submissions, so no worries if you are not a confident writer.
- H. Training /programs
 - Saturday seminars** – February 22 Free Plants. Kathy Turner Lead contact.
 - Library programs** – continue as scheduled.
 - Advanced training opportunities** - Tree Care Advanced Training
- I. **Strategic planning committee** – Met December 9, 2024. This meeting is for the President, past Presidents, and President elect.
- J. **Maple Street property** – the county has not moved the north fence to the property line. Talks still in progress.
- f) Next Director's meeting – Feb 7, 2025
- g) Old Business
 - a. **Policy & procedures/Bylaws review** – Still updating and rewriting
 - b. **Trailer** –
 - c. **Use of Chike grant** - no progress currently on estimate for trailer conversion.
 - d. **Shade house at Maple St.** – Meeting @4pm, 1/25/25 to finalize plans for purchase and discuss other plans.
 - e. **Organization of storage cabinet** –
 - f. **Rain Barrels** - 18 are at Expo center across from Storage Shed. There will be training for small group of MG who will be able to create barrels independently for Extension office to sell.
- h) New business
 - a. **2024 State awards** –
 - b. **Background checks** – Look for additional email from Jackie Sledge (1/15 regarding EVS) to complete the process.
 - c. **2025-hour requirements** – 20 volunteer and 10 Education hours.
 - d. **Master Gardener grants** – 2 @ \$500.00; awarded to Carrie Wright for Home School garden and to Kulani for Church landscape clean up and plants.
 - e. **Spring Break Library Activity** – March 14, 2025; more information to come.
 - f. **2025 Intern Training** – Up and running
 - g. **New Master Gardener e-mail** – BCMgardeners@yahoo.com went live January 2025
 - h. **Rain barrels** –
 - i. **Shade house at Maple St** – pending.
 - j. **Signatures to be on BCMGA bank accounts and debit cards** – President Dawn Graham, Treasurer Kathy Turner, Membership Jackie Sledge, and Vice President Stephanie McKee.
 - k. **Charter documents** – Due by January 31, 2025

- l. **2025 Executive Committee** – President Dawn Graham, VP Stephanie McKee, Secretary Rachel Perkins, Treasurer Kathy Turner, Past President Jackie Sledge. President elect and Treasurer elect will be nominated mid-year.
 - m. Spring Break Library Activity
 - March 14, 2025, our library program(s) for the month will be our participation.

 - i) **Extension office news**
 - a. Farm and Ranch Show – booth reserved February 27 – 28, 2025.
 - b. Women’s Fair – booth reserved February 27, 2025.
 - c. Maple St fence –
 - d. Website additions to members only section; Business meetings and newsletter.
 - e. Extension office
 - j) **Open discussion**
 - k) **Motion to adjourn** at was made by Pleas McKee and seconded by John Geib
 - l) **For VMS:**
 - Association Meeting - Monthly Continuing Education Class Before Business Meeting. CE (Education) Hours. Complete Remarks.
 - Association Meeting - Monthly Association Business Meeting. VOL (Volunteer) Hours. Complete Remarks.
- If you bring a snack:**
- Other - Food. VOL (Volunteer) Hour. Complete Remarks.

Next Business meeting – February 11, 2025