

Union County Master Gardener Association
Business Meeting Notes
January 25, 2017

Attendees

Dixie Bowen, Al Burnard, Chris Burnard, Kay Covert, Scheral Greider, Eunice Hornsby, Pat Houser, Deb Jeffers, Julie Jones, Dilu Juvarkar, Harry Kirtley, Audrey Kise, Lisa Kovinchick, Karen Long, Ron Long, Laurie Lowe, Donna Maley, Bea Metz, Karen Moots, Kay Nichols, Sara Parker, Penny Rushmore, Mary Salimbene Merriman, John Walkup and Jon Weiss

Prior to start of the meeting, Lisa acknowledged the passing of Bill Ronschke and expressed appreciation for the service he provided as an MG. The group observed a moment of silence to honor Bill.

Call to Order: Lisa called the meeting to order.

January Educational Program

Arrangements will be made for Hank Edwards to present on the topic of caring for home lawn and garden tools, at a yet-to-be-determined, future date.

Business Meeting

Secretary's Report: the November 2016 meeting was a potluck and there were no meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Mary posted the December 2016 and January 2017 Treasurer's Reports to VMS. The 2017 budget will be similar to last year's budget with the exception of:

- An increase for the Recognition Banquet (to cover catering costs)
- Reinstating \$250 for Covered Bridge Festival, which had been removed

We are awaiting one more invoice from Adopt-A-Pot project. The group voted to approve the budget with the above updates.

Coordinator's Report: Laurie reported:

- The Grow Ohio project will continue this year, due last year's success: more than 40,000 pounds of produce donated by the counties that participated. UCMGVs donated more than 1700 pounds of produce and placed third among medium-sized groups.
- MG apparel – contact Laurie to order polo- and t-shirts. More information to follow.
- Jacqueline Kowalski, OSUE, obtained grant funding for an initiative to train MGs to educate and assist the public in maintaining and/or establishing community gardens or other community food projects. Funds will cover recruiting and training two MGs per county, along with materials, books, \$50 stipend for mileage and an electric scale to weigh produce. Training will include meeting for five hours, four times throughout a one year period. In exchange, the MGs will be asked to provide training and report on efforts in their areas. Based on prior chairmanship of UCMGV community garden projects, Laurie asked Chris and Al Burnard if they were interested in participating. Chris and Al agreed to do so. There are 100 openings and Laurie plans to contact someone else if UCMGVs get the opportunity for a third person to participate.
- Karen plans to resign her position as a Coordinator. She plans to help recruit and train someone to take her place, by the end of this year. Karen plans to continue to chair the August Plant Sale

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and work on other projects. Contact Karen (ronkarenlong@gmail.com) or Laurie (wildwabbit1@gmail.com) if you are interested in the position. Volunteers are needed to help with recruiting, planning and holding the upcoming Intern Training Class. The position may be filled with multiple MGVs.

Old Business

- **Recognition Banquet** – Survey results suggested the event be held at the Ag. Center in the spring during a normal Monthly Meeting time, that it be catered, and more awards given to recognize more people. Donna G. agreed to chair the planning committee. Volunteers are needed. To participate, sign up in VMS and Donna will receive notification.

New Business

- **MG Library** – Audrey reported the library has been updated and moved to new office space. She invited everyone to check out the collection. When you borrow an item, please sign it out. When you return an item, place it in the box and it will be reshelfed.
- **Potential demonstration garden** – the group discussed issues with the McCloud Park project including fulfilling the mission to educate, low rates of attendance, and lack of parking and restroom facilities. As an alternative, Dixie contacted the County to determine the feasibility of establishing a demonstration garden at the Ag. Center. Group members expressed interest in planning for how to get people to attend educational events at the Ag. Center in addition to planning space for the garden. The group voted to explore creating a demonstration garden at the Ag. Center and exiting McCloud Park. Formation of a Revision Committee was suggested to review the Constitution which says Interns are expected to volunteer at McCloud to earn hours. Al suggested the committee also include a revision to require MGVs to pay \$10 annual dues in addition to donating plants to the August Plant Sale. The question was raised whether this could cause hardship on any members.

Project Reports:

- **Adopt-A-Pot** – Donna M. and Mary led the group in discussion as to whether continuing the project was warranted, given the effort versus the return, the nominal educational portion, the limited opportunity to earn volunteer hours, and the lack of goodwill toward the project, by the community. The group voted to end the project this year. Donna M. plans to notify the City.
- **August Plant Sale** – Karen indicated this is the group's one fund-raiser for the year. This year's event will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, with set-up on Friday, Aug. 11. Promotion via Facebook was effective. Start planning for the plants you will donate. We promote the plants as being grown by MGVs. Small increase in pricing was suggested. Volunteers are needed. Sign up in VMS.
- **Covered Bridge Festival** – Bea is looking for someone to chair the committee this year. Contact Bea (smetz9@woh.rr.com) if you are interested.
- **Cultivating Community Gardens** – Chris asked for volunteers. Sign up in VMS. West Central contacted the MGVs to train inmates how to garden. Gardens and WINGS and Dutch Mill will continue this year. Buckeye House is being reviewed.
- **Home Grown 101** – Al indicated this new project involves teaching inmates about gardening to help them after incarceration. Training will be done for those interested in volunteering in the garden. Training will be conducted for one-hour on Tues. Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, in separate classes for men and women at West Central. Additional sessions will be conducted in March, May, July and Sept.

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Volunteers are needed to teach vegetable gardening at the prison. Sign up in VMS. Eunice and Mary agreed to create an evaluation form for use at the end of the training.

- **Marketing Committee** – Kay C. had no updates.
- **McCloud Park** – Dixie indicated Second Saturdays will start in April with spring clean-up. Sign up in VMS to help plan the demo garden. The sign at McCloud Parks will need to be changed to remove the MGVs.
- **Project GROW** – Julie reported that she, Al, Donna G., Natalie and Betsy will meet at COYC and share more information in February. The group is considering more closely clumping together volunteer time to better establish relationships with the residents
- **Scholarship Committee** – Audrey reported there is \$1,000 in the budget for any resident of Union County furthering their education in plant sciences. Sign up in VMS to participate on the committee.
- **Speakers Bureau** – Eunice is looking for a new co-chair to take Lisa's place. Unless you tell her otherwise, Eunice will assume you can still speak on the topics previously indicated. Lisa asked for a volunteer to take over her role in working with the local radio station as part of this project. Eunice volunteers at the Metro Parks. Her group will be seeding new wildflower areas at Glacier Ridge Park. If you have native wildflowers in your garden and would like to gather and donate seeds, they will be used in the parks. Interested? Contact Eunice (eunicehornsby@gmail.com).

February Educational Program:

Bob Berbee will present "Summer Bulbs".

Kay N. talked about potential future programs including building flower boxes, developing beds, shade gardening, growing microgreens, square foot gardening and community gardens. Contact Kay (kaynichols1115@aol.com) with your ideas and speakers. Sign up in VMS to participate in the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Covert

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