

Volunteer Master Gardeners of Union County

November 18, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Julie Jones, Laurie Lowe, Sara Parker, Beth Johnson, Audrey Kise, Karen Long, Bryan Bumgardner, Bill Paloney, Donna Maley, Virginia McCreary, Eunice Hornsby, John Walkup, Jon Weiss, , Joan Griffin, Kay Nichols, Aleshia Miller, Scheral Greider, Nancy Munson, Rebecca Honaker, Natalie Landon, Tyler A

Presentation: followed our Business Meeting where all present shared a Master Gardener Minute.

Business Meeting Minutes:

- Secretaries Report was submitted by Beth Johnson – Approved & Accepted as written.
- Treasurer Report by Donna Maley – discussion on CD and names needed to be updated to turn them over to place funds in checking account. limited activity. Had to research the original signers to get authorization to do this. Accepted & Approved.

Coordinators Report:

Conference Call with OSU -

- Pam Bennett was unable to apply for a blanket exemption for 2021 which includes following guidelines and the demonstration gardens and possible garden tour. The current one for gardens is present through June 21, 2021. We will have to apply for the plan sale and the garden tour and renew for gardens next year pending the status of COVID -19.
 - We will look into applying for an exemption to hold meetings outdoors Face to face as we are unable to meet indoors at the ag center.
 - 10 continuing education hours are required and 20 volunteer hours COVID 19. Please get hours submitted. Do not worry about volunteer hours this year. Excessive Continuing education hours can be apples towards volunteer hours using Covid -19 explanation. Reminder to complete your time in VMS by December 31,2020. Also please renew you certifications In VMS early December. This must be completed by December 31, 2020. Look for a message from Laurie on this.
 - VMS system will be going away next year. There will be a data dump from our current VMS system into the new system. The new system is said to be user friendly.
 - Training will happen with the new system and the coordinators will keep you updated.
 - Reminder - Hort Lunch and Learn will restart in January 2021 and continue through the winter. There was some corruption to the previous recordings, and they are not longer available. Schedule for future offerings are listed below.
 - Hort Lunch and Learn Jan 7 and Jan 21; February 4 and 18, Time 12- 1PM
 - Hort Happy Hour will be Jan 13 and 27; February 10 and 24th Time 4-5 PM.
 - Eunice recapped the decision mentioned last meeting to move forward with being under the umbrella of OSU extension office
1. We are currently operating out of compliance with state and federal law and have been for a number of years, unbeknownst to us. We don't have the members, expertise, or time to incorporate and keep in legal compliance with state and federal law.

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2. Our association and especially our officers and volunteer coordinators are now, and have been personally liable should anything happen at any of our events. We can't continue operating this way.
3. Whether or not we are under OSU Extension, we must follow all university policies, we haven't been, and we must do so. Why not operate under them and receive free liability coverage?
4. Our money remains our money - there is no limit to the amount of money we can accumulate or spend, as long as we spend it in line with university policies. Which we are already required to do.
5. We will develop and provide MGVs with a short written outline of the process to follow to access money for projects. We should have done this anyway and this change is a good time to do it. MGVs will be expected to follow the outlined process. As long as MGVs follow the process, reimbursements should be quick and easy. We'll also provide timelines for when plans/financial requests need to be shared in advance for major projects. We plan far in advance now, so we don't expect there to be many delays - we'll just need to communicate with OSU Extension, which is a good practice anyway.
6. Contracts that we sign as an organization will need to be approved by Ohio State, which is already a requirement. We'll provide written guidance about this process.

There were no further questions offered from the members at the meeting to address to moving under OSU. Our organization will move forward when OSU has new record system up and working in 2021.

Our next meeting is January 27th 2021. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and Stay Safe All!

Respectfully submitted - Beth Johnson.