

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Regular Meeting
Washington County Cooperative Extension Service Office
May 7, 2019

PRESENT: 102 members; 2 guests

CALL TO ORDER:

President Susan Young called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded to approve the April minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Acceptance of the treasurer's report for March was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Washington County Fair

President Young noted that in the Project Directors' meeting in March, Mary Crumley had talked about how damaging the heat was to the items on display at the Fair and for the people who worked there. A meeting was called between Fair Board President Kendall Pendergraft and Master Gardeners Mary Crumley and Beverly Didier, MG President Young and Secretary Birkhead, Interim Agent Katie Teague and Horticulturist Colin Massey to discuss the situation in the Horticulture Building. In that meeting, Pendergraft made it clear that there was not enough money in the Fair's budget to put air conditioning into the Horticulture Building for only one week of use per year. He recommended that a short-term solution be found. President Young emphasized that Master Gardeners must work well with the Fair Board and that we must go to them with a well-researched proposal for a long-term solution.

Mary Crumley met with the Master Gardener board on April 29 with the proposal that Master Gardeners rent a portable air conditioning unit for the week of the county fair. The board approved the request. The estimated rental cost is \$4500 (rental and fuel). Since it will also provide air conditioning for the building next door as well, the board has recommended splitting the cost equally between the County Fair Adult Education Building, the Fair Board, and the Master Gardeners.

President Young said that the County Fair is a high visibility project and represents a chance for others to meet us and learn about Master Gardeners. The undesignated

funds in the MG general budget would provide the Master Gardeners' share of the rental, provided that the Adult Education Committee and the Fair Board pay their share.

In discussion, it was recommended that horticulture be moved into the air-conditioned Thompson Building for the fair. President Young said that that was not within our purview.

It was also pointed out that if the fair board is not able to provide air conditioning next year, Master Gardeners will be in the same position once again. It was also said that the Fair Board should consider the hours that Master Gardeners put in at the Fair. President Young said again that we have an opportunity to work on a long-term solution and that that could include fundraising for permanent air conditioning.

It was moved and seconded that the WCMG contribute one-third of the total cost – up to \$1500—of air conditioning of the Horticulture Building during the week of the 2019 Washington County Fair, provided that both the Fair Board and the Adult Education Building Committee each commit to contributing one third of the total cost, and provided that the Fair Board agree to sign the air conditioner rental contract.

79 voted for the motion
11 voted against the motion.

The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Horticulture Building Refrigerator: President Young announced that Mary Crumley has arranged for the donation of a refrigerator for the kitchen in the horticulture building on the fair grounds.

T-shirts: Karla Caraway announced that she was taking t-shirt order and that colors of the shirts could be seen on the website that she put pulled up on her computer.

FGNS Through the Garden Gate Tour: Elaine Blowers said that the Flower Garden and Nature Society Through the Garden Gate Tour will take place on Saturday, June 1. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and Westwood Gardens.

Mason Bee Houses: Steve Brizzi said that 30 people had attended his presentation at Shiloh Museum in April, and he presented bee houses to projects at Headquarters House, BGO, Mock Park, VA Garden Project, and Shiloh Museum based on their representatives' participation in his talk.

Canning Class: Mary Loftus announced that her canning class will be at the end of June.

Recognition for Joyce Mendenhall: Gail Pianalto announced that Extension Support Staff member Joyce Mendenhall had won the Support Staff of the Year award for 2019.

Potluck Picnic: The potluck picnic will be Tuesday, June 4, at the Veterans Administration gardens. The dinner will begin at 6:30, and Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring their own chairs, beverages, plates and utensils. Jim Sposato will prepare barbecue as the main dish. Note: No electrical outlets are available at the VA.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the business meeting at 7:02 PM.

PROGRAM:

Juan Fernando Moscoso, a horticulture student at the U of A, presented the program on carnivorous plants.

Submitted by Kathryn Birkhead, Secretary