



WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Minutes
May 5, 2020

Present: 77 Members and 1 Guest

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order. President Kathryn Birkhead called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Due to the ongoing health emergency presented by COVID-19, this general membership meeting was a virtual meeting held via Zoom.

Birkhead started with a brief overview of how business would be conducted. Motions and seconds will need to take place in the chat box and votes will be held by polling members for each vote during the meeting. Colin Massey will post the poll at the time members are asked to vote.

Approval of the March minutes. Motion and second received to approve the March minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of February Treasurer's Report. Birkhead highlighted one point from the report: that the \$1,500 to pay for the air conditioning at the 2019 Washington County Fair was initially taken out of the wrong account and has therefore been moved back to Fair account. Motion and second received to approve the February Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Approval of March Treasurer's Report. Chris briefly brought attention to the gift that was returned from U of A due to a change in their endowment policy. Motion and second received to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Peer Review. Janice Torbett and Mike Standrod completed the Peer Review in February and the WCMG Executive Committee approved it in March. Birkhead explained that the report has already been submitted to the state in order to meet the required deadline, but that the membership should still have a chance to review it. Motion and second received to accept the Peer Review as prepared and as presented to the state. Motion carried.

Announcements

The following announcements were made and then questions taken from the group:

- Steve Brizzi brought everyone up to date on the new date for the state conference we are hosting here in Washington county – now 2022, rather than 2021 – another change made due to COVID-19.
- Birkhead announced that work continues at most sanctioned projects other than “Ask a Master” and Garden Explorers since they are held at the Extension Office and the VA project which, while the VA campus is closed, is limited to just the two project volunteers on staff at the VA. Birkhead encouraged members to go work on site as they are comfortable since most projects are large enough that people can spread out on the site.
- Birkhead brought attention to the milkweed giveaway at Shiloh Museum this Saturday, May 9. Birkhead requested members check the email for details on pickup and be respectful of following the procedures as outlined.
- T-shirt order. An updated order form will be sent out by email and completed orders should be submitted by May 19.
- Garden Thyme volunteers are requesting everyone’s stories and pictures of what they’re doing during this time of quarantine.
- Brizzi announced that he has ordered the last batch of bee cocoons available and this is a good time to put them out. Let him know if you are interested.
- White County extension office has been hosting Brown Bag zoom events. Birkhead encouraged attendance as a great way to get education hours. Check for an email from Sherry Sanders back on April 29 with details.
- Del Cunico asked about planting flowers for Judie Branson, who recently passed away. Susan Gardner announced that the volunteers at the Extension Grounds had actually planted a daylily bed today in her honor and are working on adding a plaque.
- Peggy Konert asked if there was any update concerning the county fair this coming August. Colin said that they will be watching the health situation related to the virus. At this time the event is still planned, but will likely be scaled down. Stay tuned as this could change.
- Colin shared several announcements: 1) his appreciation for the courtesy everyone has exhibited on this first zoom meeting, 2) that there is no set date for when the Extension Office will reopen, but that it will likely in phases, and 3) the possibility of a plant sale soon in partnership with NWA Master Naturalists at the extension office with a pre-order and a drive-through format with proper social distancing for pick-up.

Adjourn business meeting

There being no further business to come before the group, with a motion to adjourn, the business meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Tonight’s Program: “Mexico's Legacy: Corn”, presented by one of WCMG’s own, Dr. Mel Zabecki, PhD, Education Outreach Coordinator, U of A Arkansas Archeological Survey.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruthanne Hill, Secretary