

Grant County Master Gardener Volunteers
September 17, 2020, Zoom Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Shirley Audetat. Roll call by Connie Landon with 12 members online, plus Amanda and one other lady. Treasurer's report by Connie Larson, reporting a current balance of \$3,203.80. She stated she received a letter from UWP inquiring about the horticulture scholarships for this coming year.

- Wendy reported on the 9-5-20 virtual plant sale with a profit of \$724, not quite half of what we made from the last two years' plant sales. There were 140 plants available to purchase with 14 orders placed online. Customers heard about it from Facebook, newspapers, and word of mouth. Hopefully we can still have a spring plant sale with it strictly being outside and people staying 6 feet apart.
- We need newsletter helpers; no one volunteered. Shirley suggested that each person participate for one month's worth of news pertaining to their projects, webinars, tours, or other garden related subjects which they might find interesting to share. Shirley would like to spread out the responsibilities among the group and not just on one person since no one seems to want to volunteer for this job. This will be discussed more in detail at the next meeting.
- Connie Larson reported on the Cassville raised garden bed in conjunction with the local food pantry. Due to the lumbar shortage, the raised garden was built by Connie's husband Brian later than originally planned. When it was planted, Connie had four helpers that worked with the garden, and produce was donated to the food pantry.
- Karin reported on changes in the orientation for new Master Gardeners. The prospective MGs enroll in the online Onboarding Canvas course. They complete all the necessary requirements for joining through this course, along with passing the test. If they need more learning, they would need to enroll in the Fundamentals in Horticulture (FIH) to expand their knowledge. This program was developed to maintain a uniform program throughout the state. It was mentioned that in previous years some counties didn't comply with the requirements necessary for new Master Gardeners to become members. There will be an experimental project with four counties to see how it works out. The calendar year now runs from January 1st through December 31st.
- Discussion was held on donating to the scholarships at UWP. We voted to donate two \$250 scholarships; Cindy made the motion, Connie Landon seconded, and motion carried.
- Grant applications are due. We have applied for one for \$250 to go towards the expenses of the new Root Box at Katie's Garden in Platteville. Karin paid for the cost of everything herself and needs to be reimbursed. The second grant application is for \$400 to go towards Zoom license software and video editing for a video streaming spring conference in 2021. Amanda explained how a virtual spring conference would work. We need to know two months in advance.

She said virtual cattle webinars actually have drawn more people because they can participate from all over. There's no food, no building, no door prizes. We would need to notify the speakers to see if they would be willing to be virtual and willing to be recorded.

- Mary & Karin reported on their Grant County Fairgrounds Eckstein Building plant project. They are unable to work on it this fall, so will proceed in the spring. They will need money for the project, amount undetermined at this time, but the \$100 grant money would be used towards edging for the 120-foot bed.
- Cindy's project of flower gardens at Marsden Park in Fennimore will need \$100, but this will be delayed until she has more time to organize it.
- Wendy discussed the October program of having a fall show-and-tell with unique and unusual plants. We will be meeting by Zoom again.
- Wendy also needs the new interns e-mail addresses; Karin will get them to her. We will have four new members who will bring their talents to our group by the end of this month.
- Discussion was held on officers for the new year. We will need a new President as Shirley agreed to serve for only one year. Wendy said she might consider still being Vice-President. Amanda said nomination forms need to be sent out. Connie Larson and Connie Landon agreed to remain in their current positions as Treasurer and Secretary. We also need to decide on committees.
- Karin reported on the new native plants portion of the Rotary Gardens in Janesville by Dutch designer Piet Oudorf.

We adjourned at 8:17 pm; Cindy made the motion, Shirley seconded, and motion was approved.

Connie Landon, Secretary