

Attendees: Russ Parker, Deb Studley, Roseann Meixelsperger, Jill Fries, Donna Amidon, Barb Boatman, Pam Davies, Terri Johnson, Sue Reinardy, Linda Anderson, and Ed Jacobsen. Also attending were Lorraine Toman and Kevin Schoessow

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the April 23rd membership meeting were accepted with an amendment to change the date of the minutes from March 23rd to April 23rd. Motion by Sue, second by Donna. Carries unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: May's Beginning Balance was \$2,649.58 and the Ending Balance was \$2,649.58.

Barb Boatman, Treasurer, Roseann Meixelsperger, President and Amanda Kupsch, Vice President will be signers on the Bank of the West checking account.

YouTube Educational Videos from our display Gardens and/or ZOOM Videoconferencing: Sue discussed news from the Coordinators call. The State program group is encouraging local groups to do the MGVA programming we have always done, but it will be revised. Lorraine stated many individuals want to take the training as a gardening class, so we will be adding extra steps for certification. Generally, 75% of people who go thru the training do not certify. Roseann stated she has a local individual who is interested in our MGVA training. Lorraine will place this person on the interested MGVA list. Sue stated one of the good ideas she heard is working with the local Libraries on "Ask a Master Gardener a question". Sue has had experience with this working with the Hayward Library. Discussion on how this is mutually beneficial.

Discussion on the May 14th Container Gardening ZOOM Videoconference that had 140 attendees! Sue mentioned they had some technical issues and the other ZOOM hosts on the call kept the program going until Sue could rejoin the session. Lorraine said most of the reviews were positive, and only a few disconnected from the session. Many commented they would not have been able to attend the session if it had not been offered on ZOOM.

Roseann stated that the next scheduled event for mid-June on Herbs will not occur. Jill Fries volunteered to give a presentation on Composting Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30 p.m. Lorraine will host the ZOOM session, Roseann volunteered to be co-host and help with Chat responses, and Sue volunteered to be the training backup. Jill will prepare handouts prior to the session, and Lorraine will publicize the event, and Sue will post it on our website.

Discussion on what makes a good YouTube. Lorraine provided the following great suggestions: Please have the raw videos recorded and shared with me via Google Drive or a similar file sharing service several days prior to the planned premier date. If you have a specific vision for the video, make sure to let me know what you were hoping to share. Attach any extra information that you would like me to include in the video if I can. I will do my best within the tools that I have available to me. Please keep the videos to 15 minutes or less if possible. If you are using a phone or tablet, make sure to orient your device in a landscape format. It fills the screen better and just makes a better-looking final product. Be mindful of wind noise and other distractions if you are filming outside. We have a tripod and wired microphone at the station available to borrow.

Thanks to all of you for keeping the vision alive in spite our challenges this year. There is a lot we can do even though we cannot group together. These videos will be a great resource for parents who are

looking for meaningful enrichment activities for children over the summer and they can also be promoted again year after year for a while.

Kids in the Garden – There will be no on-site program this year, but we are trying to reach this audience via technology. Roseann has produced a couple of YouTube videos to date. Sue stated she has created a video page and did a blog on our NCMGV website to make finding them easier. Lorraine is also publicizing these on our Facebook page. We are working on a press release to announce what we will be offering this summer “virtually”. Roseann also stated she is sharing these video’s with libraries in our three Counties and they are happy to publicize them as they are also looking for children friendly content.

Tomatosphere – Roseann stated we are participating in this project that involves two sets of seeds – one from the International Space Station, and one from the Heinz earth bound location as part of our Kids in the Garden sessions. This replaces our Yoga in the Garden for this year. A YouTube has been made and posted of the original planting in our greenhouse and will be followed up with the results from the project after she provides germination data by seed type. Roseann requested reimbursement in the amount @\$20 for the peat pots that were required for the project. Motion by Sue R to approve, Second by Donna. Motion carries unanimously.

FoodWise & Lakeland Family Resources collaboration – Kevin connected Roseann with Bridget Rongner of FoodWise. The YouTube’s we are producing this Spring/Summer for Mini Master Gardeners and Kids in the Garden will become part of FoodWise “Color Me Healthy” training this Fall. FoodWise wants us as MGV’s to provide the horticultural lesson, and FW will provide the nutrition lesson. Great collaboration.

Committees in 2020: Roseann will remove this from future agendas at Sandy’s request until the Fall when we start to prepare for 2021.

Plant Sale – CANCELLED per Extension COVID-19 compliance directive. Russ stated some people have contacted him personally. Four tomato plants were given to John and Barb Jaderburg who insisted Russ accept \$50 for the MGV group, and he would like to meet Barb at Bank of the West tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Seed Starting and Greenhouse updates – Russ has been starting AAS seeds. Stan and Vince took some plants for their 2 beds in the pinwheel. Kevin drove down to Madison and picked up our AAS plants that the UW started for us.

Display Garden: A big shout out of thanks to all MGV’s who have adopted beds in our MAPS, Pinwheel, and Children’s Garden. Roseann requested pinwheel and Children’s Garden adopters to put in the AAS plant requests for their plots from the AAS plant list that was distributed earlier. The even numbered pinwheel requested plants will be placed on the beds Monday, June 1st. The odd numbered pinwheel plant requests will be placed on the beds Tuesday, June 2nd. This is to ensure social distancing for COVID-19 protocol. The plants will be placed on the pinwheel beds shortly after 8 a.m. on your assigned days.

Phil is concerned that the gardens do not go to weeds, and Kevin is supportive of our efforts if we continue being careful. Sue stated that during the Coordinator call it was stated in May and June we do virtual sessions, no in person classes. Further guidelines for volunteer events will be June 15th. Kevin requests signage on social distancing and COVID-19 safety practices. Lorraine will prepare these, and an MGV will place them in the gardens for both ourselves and the public.

We do not yet know when our Intern will be on site. Lorraine stated we should have a Garden Manager starting next week. Roseann stated we have MAPS, pinwheels, and raised beds adopted by MGVA's, but we need the Intern to handle the vegetable beds. Jill stated she made the to do list, and laminated sheets. These sheets for the vegetable beds were placed in the main and children's garden mailboxes. Jill attached dry erase markers to the clip boards.

Donna requested help with getting perennial bed #2 prepped, as she cannot make it to the gardens until approximately mid-June. Terri offered to do this for her.

Request to order a PortaPotti for the Display Gardens again this year. Cost in 2019 was \$135/month, or about \$400 for the season. Discussion on sanitizing of the PortaPotti. In addition to the hand sanitizer provided with the PortaPotti antiseptic wipes will be placed there, and the company replaced them monthly. Consensus decision to order.

Tool Shed – Request to purchase disinfectant spray and wipes. Discussion on tool sharing. Everyone is strongly encouraged to bring your own tools. If you do use tools from the shed, wear your garden gloves. After using shared resources (tools, wheelbarrows, etc.) please wipe or spray the touchable parts with the disinfectant spray/wipes.

Twilight Tour – CANCELLED per Extension COVID-19 compliance directive. Donna had several comments on reasons to not have it. Roseann stated that Amanda had a good idea of recording a video tour of the gardens in the Fall. She also suggested that Kevin's friend who has a drone may take overhead video to put on our website at that time. Kevin volunteered to ask him if he would do this. Roseann would like short video clips of all MGVA plots – Education about what is in that plot, what went right, what went wrong etc. All publicity for the TT has been removed from the web sites, Facebook, etc. Lorraine will manage incoming calls about the cancelled event.

Web site, blogs – Sue stated our website host has updated the version, and she feels that our view statistics are more realistic. We are getting about 100 views/week. A lot of it came from the May 14th container gardening. Any time we have a video, blogs, training we get follow up views.

Miscellaneous – Sue had a question from the Hayward Food Shelf about the produce they may receive this year. Kevin has a master list of donors who receive the produce. Roseann will give Kevin the new contact for the Spooner Food Shelf now located in Shell Lake.

Stan wants to host another book club. He is interested in straw bale gardening. Sue stated that one of the key items from the Coordinators call is that book clubs cannot be counted as Continuing Education, but if you get the book approved, you can count that for CE. For example, 24 pages = 1 hour of CE, up to 5 hours. They will add reading books as an approved CE, which is fantastic. Watch for the next update from Mike Maddox, including an approved list of reading materials. They are emphasizing research-based training for MGVA's.

Horticulture questions – Linda Anderson has asked for help, as the calls are coming in. A few MGVA's have volunteered to date, please consider volunteering for this. Our recent Horticultural inquiries training is now posted online. Linda added that Brian Huddelson has a listserv. His email address is Brian Huddelson at pddc@wisc.edu to have your email address added to the new clinic listserv, "UWPDDCLearn". Linda stated this is interactive, and extremely helpful. Kevin stated Jay Lampier, the State Horticultural Manager, has been inviting MGVA's to the Friday morning horticultural updates. What

Kevin especially likes is we get to learn of issues happening in the southern part of the state, which gives us a jump on what is coming our way. Nice way to stay in the loop.

WIMGA update – Roseann said WIMGA has approved our keeping the \$400 Children’s Garden Sensory Grant until 2021.

Adjourned: Roseann adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Next meeting will be June 25th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Connection details will be sent by Lorraine at a future date.