

**Dallas County Master Gardener Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2024**

**Attending:**

Monica Nagle – President  
Nancy Black - 1st Vice President (Fundraising)  
Sue Smith - 2nd Vice President (Member Services)  
Leslie Densmore – Secretary  
Glen McGee – Director-at-Large  
Debbie Wood – Director-at-Large  
Barbara Anderson – Parliamentarian  
Barry Bloom – Garden Consultations  
Rick Coke – Budget Committee  
Cynthia Jones – Communications  
Cindy Large – Continuing Education; Financial Review Committee  
Zandra Faris – Nomination; Financial Review; Communications  
Joellyn Nobbe –TMGA Director; Investment Committee; School Liaison to the CEA  
Jadi Oliver – TMGA Director  
Lisa Reese – Master Gardener School  
Katerina Graham – AgriLife, Dallas County Horticulture Extension Agent  
Khristal Oduwole – Dallas County Horticulture Program Assistant

**Absent:**

Abbe Bolich – Immediate Past President  
Sara Burke – Director-at-Large  
Gwen Cassel – Master Gardener School  
Helen Dulac - Nomination Committee  
Chris Geyer – Safety Coordinator  
Margaret Ghose – TMGA Director – Alternate  
Neal Howard - Director-at-Large  
Sue John - Treasurer  
Cookie Peadon – Speaker’s Bureau  
Stephen Seewoester – TMGA Director – Alternate  
Tig Thompson – Statistician

**Guests:**

Lorraine Hellinghausen

**Quorum:** The meeting was held via Zoom. It was called to order by President Monica Nagle at 10:01am with a quorum present.

## **Approve Minutes from the April Board Meeting**

**Glen McGee made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2024, DCMGA Board Meeting. Sue Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

## **President's Report – Monica Nagle**

A big welcome to the new Dallas County Horticulture Program Assistant, Khristal Oduwole. The Garden Tour Team is doing an outstanding job preparing for their big day on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The PKS rollout continues with support from Debbie Wood, Leslie Densmore and Sara Burke.

The Help Desk is an excellent model for Master Gardeners to set up their own independent PKS event. Supporting materials (canopy, banner, etc) are stored at the North Dallas Government Center (old Brinker Building) in the Agrilife office. Rick is going to explore putting marketing/gardening handouts on the website so that these will be readily available to everyone. Glen, Rick and Debbie are going to meet offline to define a check out process for the equipment to track it and also create a guide for the steps required to set up an independent event. There are a few DCMGA marketing cards available now.

Graduation for the new intern class will be held June 1 and all are encouraged to attend.

There were no New Business items for this meeting.

## **AgriLife Updates – Katerina Graham**

Katerina told everyone a big Thank You for everything DCMGA has done for both the community and extension as she transitions to her new position. Katrina will be working with AgriLife at the Dallas Center working in biocontrol research focusing on greenhouses, hoop houses, and high tunnels. Monica thanked Katerina for her leadership over the past two years and wished her the best of luck.

The last Master Gardening class will be held Wednesday, May 15. Major topics for this class include the Help Desk and Safety procedures in the garden. Intern days are being set up to give the new class an opportunity to visit the gardens.

Thursday is the last Edible Gardening for All in Spanish class. Mini etymology classes will be offered this summer by Master Gardeners who have taken Etymology Advanced Training ; these will be half-day sessions that will be taken to community centers, YMCAs, etc.

Khristal Oduwole was welcomed to the Board as the new Horticulture Program Assistant.

## **Treasurer's Report – Sue John**

The April Treasurer reports have distributed; please contact Sue with any questions.

## **Past President's Report – Abbe Bolich**

There is no report for this month.

## **Public Education School Liaison – Joellyn Nobbe**

There is no report for this month.

**Director-at-Large – Neal Howard**

Further development of the Public Knowledge Sharing (PKS) form was put on hold due to the time needed to support the Garden Tour. Association Document Storage planning will begin with a survey to the Board to document current storage practices.

**Director's Report - Community Outreach, Scholarships – Debbie Wood**

There is one additional PKS event planned for June. Planning for the State Fair PKS events is in progress and will be an opportunity for several people to volunteer. Monica thanked Debbie for all her efforts in getting Master Gardeners involved in PKS events.

**Master Gardener School – Lisa Reese**

The 2024 Master Gardeners School is ending. The last class is May 15, 2024. This is an outstanding group of people who demonstrate remarkable enthusiasm for gardening, horticulture, the community, and each other. They will all make fine Master Gardeners! Concluding lecture topics were Growing Fruits and Nuts, Earth Kind Principles, Trees, Entomology, IPM, Plant Diseases, and Fertilization. Interns took a take home Final Exam as well as did a Final Presentation for the class. Their final course grade will be an average of Homework, Final Exam and Final Presentation grades.

Highlights of the final classes were the tremendous presentations made by the interns. The interns will sign up for the Cultural Awareness class in June.

**Budget Committee and Procurement - Rick Coke**

Revised drafts of the Financial Documents have been distributed to all Board members and project leaders. Rick suggested that all review the documents in preparation for discussion at the next meeting. The objective is to simplify the process and guidelines; please send any comments to Rick.

Glen asked for a volunteer to create master list of approved contractors so that it is in place once the new process is in place. Raincatchers has been the primary location that uses contractor services. Monica will work with Lisa Centala and Jon Maxwell to document the information required for approval of contractors which would include license, cost structure and insurance coverage, and recommendations. Glen will create a template for the information required for approval.

There is no current activity on the budget; the first step will be to create a master list of all the entities that will submit a budget for 2025 and appropriate contacts.

**Help Desk – Rick Coke**

The Help Desk team will present at the Master Gardener School on Wednesday. There will be an onsite event at North Haven Gardens on May 18.

**Statistics / Data Report – Tig Thompson**

The monthly statistics report has been distributed. Tig reported that the 2023 value of a volunteer hour is now \$33.49; the 2022 value was \$31.80.

### **TMGA Director's Meeting – Joellyn Nobbe**

The Texas Master Gardeners Association (TMGA) held a short meeting on April 24 during a break in their 2024 Texas Master Gardener Conference.

Texas MG will be sponsoring the 2025 International Master Gardener conference in April 2025 and is asking for all local associations to help promote the event. TMGA reported a drop in membership, but this was not quantified. Last year 91% of applicants for grant applications were approved and TMG is encouraging participation in this program. Past award applications are available on the TMG website.

The endowment fund is now \$34,000. DCMGA has prepared a list of questions regarding the endowment to assess possible DCMGA participation; Monica will follow up with Jayla to get this information. Advanced Training pins can now be purchased on the TMGA website. The Texas Master Gardener Management Guide has been changed but no training has been made generally available. Monica will follow up with Jayla on training for the new Management Guide.

All TMG meetings are now virtual so there is a question as to whether the two TMG alternate positions will still be required for 2025. Jadi and Joellyn will research this requirement for 2025.

### **Communications – Cynthia Jones/Zandra Faris**

The number of subscribers continues to increase for Facebook. Website visitors increased in May, with the most significant increase being views to the Garden Tour page and ticket purchases.

The garden tour auction site is live and auction information will also be included in the Mark-Your-Calendar coming out on Wednesday.

### **Garden Consultation Team – Barry Bloom**

Active GCT matters include: **(1)** GCT Document Revision; **(2)** a request from a 4th Grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary School in starting a garden for the 2024 -2025 school year; **(3)** a request for garden assistance at Northside Baptist Church for development of a four (4) acre area with a fruit orchard and community garden and some basic horticulture instruction for the church's youth groups; **(4)** a request from a teacher at Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School to bring its garden "back to life" after sitting idle since the COVID-19 pandemic; **(5)** a request from Temple Shalom for assistance in creating a "universal and accessible design" for the garden to enable disabled individuals to access the garden, and to utilizing "rainwater catchment for small-scale irrigation"; **(6)** a request from an Outdoor Learning Specialist at the Carrollton/Farmers Branch Outdoor Learning Center relative to starting a 3-sisters garden; **(7)** a request from a Master Gardener student to assist with Stone Park; **(8)** a request from a teacher at the Montessori Children's House & School for creating a beautiful garden for her students in an outside courtyard; **(9)** a request from the school counselor at Life School Carrollton Elementary School to start a garden club at the school and to schedule a time for someone to assist with planning; **(10)** a request from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent BLT for help in developing gardening programs at DeSoto Senior Center; **(11)** a request from the president of the Pagewood Townhomes Home Owners Association to consider the potential of a community garden to be located on a condemned tennis court or an abandoned playground and the potential in retaining consulting services for a resident gardener for the community in return for compensation; and, **(12)** a request from Paul Quinn College for assistance with the installation of a drip irrigation system at the "farm". Inactive matters include: **(a)** determining whether CC Young Senior Living Community still needs the services of the GCT; and **(b)** dealing with matters at Juliette Fowler. Overall, Barry reported that it has been difficult to find volunteers for the various projects. Matching specialties with requests is the challenge.

### **Continuing Education – Cindy Large**

An updated continuing education report was submitted.

### **Speakers Bureau – Cookie Peadon**

The Speakers Bureau had a total of 25 presentations for the month of April providing education for a total of 499 individuals. That is a slightly downward level of activity – something we normally see at this time of year as individuals start working on their own gardens. That brings us to a total number of 101 presentations so far this year and the total number of people exposed to horticultural education was 2874 contacts.

### **Safety Committee – Chris Geyer**

New first aid kits have been ordered and will be utilized at each of the garden sites for the tour. After the garden tour, these kits will be distributed to each of the projects.

### **1<sup>st</sup> VP Report: Fundraising - Nancy Black**

We are on the countdown for the DCMGA Garden Tour which takes place in 9 days. Fundraising for the Tour has exceeded its goal of \$14,000 by \$6,150. As of May 13, 456 tickets have been sold generating revenue of \$8,208. Lastly, there will be a silent auction which features 28 items. The auction begins on May 13 and ends @ 10PM May 18. The auction items will be displayed at the Bath House during the Garden tour.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report: Membership - Sue Smith**

The June MG monthly meeting will be held at the Arboretum. Entrance and parking fees will be waived.

### **Director's Report: Awards/Recognition/Appreciation – Sara Burke**

Nominations have been received for the Making a Difference recognition for the next 3 months.

### **Director's Report: Volunteer Engagement & Project Liaison – Glen McGee**

Only one application has been received for the 2024 Scholarship; applications will be accepted until May 31. There is a great deal of education, research and food donations going on in the gardens.

There is a now Zelle card with a QR code available for anyone who may need it for a fundraiser.

The application to award Nita Rausch Emerita status is complete and waiting for TMG approval. Thank you to Cynthia Jones for all her efforts to make this possible.

**Nancy Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glen McGee seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.**