

**Dallas County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024**

Attending:

Abbe Bolich – Immediate Past President
Sara Burke – Director-at-Large
Monica Nagle – President
Nancy Black - 1st Vice President (Fundraising)
Sue Smith - 2nd Vice President (Member Services)
Leslie Densmore – Secretary
Sue John - Treasurer
Glen McGee – Director-at-Large
Neal Howard - Director-at-Large
Barbara Anderson – Parliamentarian
Cynthia Jones – Communications
Cookie Peardon – Speaker’s Bureau
Cindy Large – Continuing Education; Financial Review Committee
Zandra Faris – Nomination; Financial Review; Communications
Jadi Oliver – TMGA Director

Absent:

Barry Bloom – Garden Consultations
Gwen Cassel – Master Gardener School
Rick Coke – Budget Committee
Helen Dulac - Nomination Committee
Chris Geyer – Safety Coordinator
Margaret Ghose – TMGA Director – Alternate
Joellyn Nobbe –TMGA Director; Investment Committee; School Liaison to the CEA
Khristal Oduwole – Dallas County Horticulture Program Assistant
Lisa Reese – Master Gardener School
Stephen Seewoester – TMGA Director – Alternate
Tig Thompson – Statistician
Debbie Wood – Director-at-Large

Guests:

Valerie Reiss

Quorum: The meeting was held via Zoom. It was called to order by President Monica Nagle at 10:03am with a quorum present.

Approve Minutes from the May Board Meeting

Monica Nagle made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2024, DCMGA Board Meeting. Sue Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President's Report – Monica Nagle

Congratulations to the DCMG class of 2023 on their graduation and to the Class of 2024 on completing their coursework. Their energy and enthusiasm are unmatched. We look forward to working side-by-side with all the graduates and interns.

A huge 'Thank You' to the Garden Tour Team for their outstanding job! 2024's Garden Tour had some ambitious goals that were met with enormous success.

If you have not already done so, please consider attending the Cultural Awareness seminar later this month. Monica will ask if the Cultural Awareness seminar could be recorded and provided as a zoom offering. Also, a proposal has been made to create a Cultural Awareness Committee within the DCMGA. We welcome your feedback.

The Board has raised several concerns and questions regarding the TXMG endowment request; a document outlining the Board's questions and concerns to Jayla Fry for her input.

Committee Proposal – Valerie Reiss

Valerie presented an overview of her proposal for a committee with the mission of reaching out to the portions of the Dallas County population that have been historically underrepresented within DCMGA and fostering a welcoming environment inclusive to all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, age, finances, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or ability. The Board discussed both goals and proposed next steps. There needs to be clarification as to whether this would be an Association committee or a Master Gardener committee. Considering DCMGA diversity in both membership and impact are important considerations.

Sara Burke made a motion to explore the formation of a committee to increase both awareness and impact of DCMGA membership and activities as discussed. Nancy Black seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report – Sue John

The May Treasurer reports have been distributed; please contact Sue with any questions. The May treasurer reports reflect a significant amount of fundraising revenue from both the Garden Tour and Raincatchers plant sale; receipts are detailed in the distributed reports. Sue also noted that there was a tremendous amount of support from the East Dallas community from both large and small entities.

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 was no report this month.

Master Gardener School – Lisa Reese

There was no report this month.

Budget Committee and Procurement - Rick Coke

Proposed updated Financial Procedures documents have been distributed. Rick requested that any comments or modifications should be submitted so that the final documents can be voted on in the July Board meeting.

Help Desk – Rick Coke

There was no report this month.

Statistics / Data Report – Tig Thompson

Monthly statistics were distributed.

TMGA Director’s Meeting – Joellyn Nobbe / Judi Oliver

There were no meetings this month.

Communications – Cynthia Jones/Zandra Faris

The number of subscribers continues to increase for Facebook. Website and Instagram visitors continue to rise as well. Special thanks to Mary Cunningham, Christina Herman and Shea Mayberry for their contributions.

Garden Consultation Team – Barry Bloom

Active 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 acre area with a fruit orchard, community garden and some basic horticulture instruction for the church's youth groups is being handled; **(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 intern 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 Paul Quinn College for assistance with the installation of a drip irrigation system at the "farm"; and, **(11)** a recent request from First Christian Methodist Church for landscaping assistance for a prayer garden to be constructed at the church.

Continuing Education – Cindy Large

An updated continuing education report was submitted and links for the presentations will be available on the DCMGA website and through the Mark Your Calendar updates.

Safety Committee – Chris Geyer

There was no report this month.

Speakers Bureau – Cookie Peardon

This month, Speakers provided 18 presentations (some at the Garden Tour) and that brought the total number of contacts for the month to 1211. Our number of presentations through May YTD is 119 and total contacts for the year thus far is 4101.

Kudos to the Garden Tour Team for their great results. Our speakers were delighted to help provide information during the tour.

1st VP Report: Fundraising - Nancy Black

May was a great month for fundraising. Raincatchers had their annual plant sale on May 7th and revenue is approximately \$7527. Many thanks to Denise Strueber for merchandise sales in the amount of \$4916.08. The 2024 DCMGA Garden Tour was a huge success on May 18th. The four Co-Chairs did an outstanding job. All of the eight gardens were beautiful and many folks who purchased tickets commented on the multiple educators who happily answered their questions and freely shared their knowledge. There is not a final income number for the Tour, however; the Garden Tour team is estimating an approximate net income of \$34,000.

2nd VP Report: Membership - Sue Smith

The June and August MG monthly meetings will be held at the Arboretum. Entrance and parking fees will be waived. There will be no meeting in July.

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

Nominations are in process for June-September for Making a Difference recognition. There will be special recognition of Maureen O'Hanahan at this month's meeting as she leaves for the Bell County MG Association.

Work has begun on the DCMGA submissions for the TMGA Search for Excellence Awards for 2024. The deadline for submission is January 2025.

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

There were nine Scholarship applications received. Several educational meetings were held. One ton of vegetables were donated to local food banks. Cynthia Sharp will assist in organizing liaisons to the Approved Volunteer Opportunity gardens.

Sue John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abbe Bolich seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.