

Dallas County Master Gardener Association

Board Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2024

Attending:

Monica Nagle – President

Abbe Bolich – Immediate Past President, Chair of the Nominating Committee

Leslie Densmore – Secretary

Nancy Black - 1st Vice President, Fundraising

Sue Smith - 2nd Vice President, Membership

Sara Burke – Director-at-Large (Awards/Recognition, Scholarships)

Glen McGee – Director-at-Large (Volunteer Engagement & Project Liaison)

Debbie Wood – Director-at-Large (Community Outreach)

Barbara Anderson – Parliamentarian

Rick Coke – Chair, Budget Committee / Co-Chair Help Desk

Joellyn Nobbe – Chair, Investment Committee; TMG Dir. Meeting Liaison; School Project Liaison

Helen Dulac - Nomination Committee Member

Cynthia Jones – Co-Chair Communications; Nominating Committee Member

Zandra Faris – Chair, Financial Review; Co-Chair Communications

Jadi Oliver – TMG Director’s Meeting Liaison

Tig Thompson – Chair, Statistics

Khristal Oduwole – Dallas County Horticulture Program Assistant

Lorraine Hellinghausen – Potential Marketing Position

Absent:

Sue John - Treasurer

Lisa Reese – Chair, Master Gardener School

Cindy Large – Chair, Continuing Education; Financial Review Committee Member

Barry Bloom – Chair, Garden Consultation

Gwen Cassel – Master Gardener School

Xiomara Diaz – Dallas County Extension Director

Lewis Frias – Nominating Committee Member

Chris Geyer – Chair, Safety

Margaret Ghose – TMG Director’s Meeting Liaison – Alternate

Neal Howard - Director-at-Large (Technology)

Joe Labay – Financial Review Committee Member

Cookie Peadon – Chair, Speaker’s Bureau

Stephen Seewoester – TMG Director’s Meeting Liaison – Alternate

Val Reiss – Master Gardener School

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 August Board Meeting

Abbe Bolich made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2024, DCMGA Board Meeting. Sue Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Sue John

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

Past President's Report – Abbe Bolich

The last nomination meeting will be held this week.

President's Report – Monica Nagle

The Board is working on a Memorandum of Understanding for PlantTAGG. A meeting with Andrew Levi, the owner of PlantTAGG, the Board, Cynthia Jones and Len Nadalo was held to review the proposed MOU. Andrew Levi requested several changes to the proposed MOU that are being addressed. A copy of the revised MOU will be sent to the Board for approval. The revised MOU as well as a document listing all references to DCMGA that should be removed from the PlantTAGG website will be sent to Andrew Levi for his approval.

Xiomara Diaz, Khristal, Glen and Monica met to discuss the number of MGs who currently lack PKS hours. One concern was the confusion over approved locations for earning PKS hours. Xiomara agreed to eliminate the restrictive Approved Volunteer Opportunity list for PKS volunteer hours. DCMGs may provide PKS at any location (within reason). Streamlining VMS entry of PKS hours is also being addressed.

Glen will revise the existing description of the Approved Volunteer list positioning it as examples of potential PKS locations but not a restrictive list. This list will then be posted on VMS, MYC and the website.

Approving travel compensation for speakers who travel long distances for presentations has been suggested. This will be addressed in the October budget meeting.

New Business – Monica Nagle

A fundraiser request for the Pansy sale was submitted; projected revenue, \$11K, expenses, \$6K revenue.

Abbe Bolich made a motion to approve the fundraiser request for the Pansy Sale as submitted. Sara Burke seconded. The motion passed.

A NBFR for \$240 was submitted for refreshments for the six planned Taste of the Garden events.

Monica Nagle made a motion to approve expenses up to a maximum of \$240 supporting six Taste of the Garden events refreshments with the purpose of encouraging all members to volunteer at these projects noting that these are not project-specific activities. Glen McGee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sara Burke and Glen McGee met to create a mechanism to address requests for financial support from deserving individuals or groups to increase community outreach. The Gift Fund Policy and application was distributed to the Board and will be posted on the website if approved. The Gift Fund can be established as part of the annual budget and can be re-evaluated as needed.

Leslie Densmore made a motion to approve the DCMGA Gift Fund guidelines as submitted; allocation of funds will be reviewed at each budget cycle. Sue Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The larger MG counties were contacted to discuss their TMG endowment fund participation.

Tarrant County and Denton County do not plan to participate. Collin County regrets their participation.

All were concerned about accountability of management of the fund and lack of opportunity for county MGA participation in expenditures.

Glen McGee made a motion to table DCMGA participation in the TMGA endowment fund until our concerns are addressed. Abbe Bolich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Raising association dues for 2025 was discussed. Any dues increase must be decided in time for announcement at the October MG business meeting. Currently, DCMGA is within budget for 2024.

Monica Nagle made a motion to maintain the current annual dues in place for 2025. Glen McGee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Director-at-Large – Neal Howard

Preparation for the Fall Japanese Maple Tree Sale is in progress. Capture of the AgriLife PKS staffing metrics capture is on hold. There is an ongoing search for 'tech-inclined' members.

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

Kimberly High, founder and mastermind behind Joppy Momma's Farm, received the Making a Difference Award at the August DCMGA meeting. Making a Difference Award nominees are in process through October.

DCMGA submissions for the TMGA 2024 Search for Excellence Awards are in process; we are currently planning entries in 3 categories.

The 2025 Budget Request form was submitted increasing the annual scholarship amount to \$5000.

Bylaws – Barbara Anderson

Barbara presented the proposed revisions to the Bylaws; Jayla Fry, AgriLife, has reviewed the proposed revisions. The major revisions reviewed included:

- aligning the Bylaws wording with the TMGA wording
- clarifying definitions of students, training, interns and certified Master Gardeners
- amount and payment of Association dues during training
- process to set dues, notification and membership participation
- annual meeting requirement and notification
- creation of a Policy and Procedures manual
- clarification of eligibility and term limitations of Board members

The next Bylaws review will also include an outline of sections that could be included in the Policy and Procedures document. Suggestions by the Board will be incorporated into the next revision and presented to the Board.

IT Support – Monica Nagle

IT support is needed for:

- ability to pay bills online via a link or PayPal
- set up external accounts with unique email address dedicated to that account
- establish a repository for association documents

Budget Committee and Procurement - Rick Coke

The Budget Committee remains on schedule. All projects have been contacted about submitting 2025 budget requests. Approximately half of the projects have responded. Plans are to present a complete spreadsheet of requests at the October board meeting.

Help Desk – Rick Coke

Events are scheduled at North Haven Gardens in September, October and November; these events are open to all members to earn PKS hours and will be publicized on MYC.

Continuing Education – Cindy Large

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

Speaker’s Bureau – Cookie Peardon

The Speaker’s Bureau scheduled 10 presentations for a total outreach of 224 PKS contacts for the month. That brings the Year-to-Date total to 153 presentations and 4976 contacts.

Statistics / Data Report – Tig Thompson

Monthly statistics were distributed. Accumulated education and volunteer hours are ahead of 2023 hours at this time. At this point there are more certified members and graduating interns than last year. However, over 1/3 of interns in the 2022, 2023 and 2024 classes have reported no hours; 4 of these interns are part of the 2024 class. Approximately 2/3 of members have met their PKS hours requirements.

Communications – Cynthia Jones/Zandra Faris

The number of Facebook public page followers continues to grow monthly and is now 4680; there were 52 posts in August. New subscribers for *Grow, Know & Go* have been identified by lists from the DCMGA Garden Tour and the spring Japanese Maple tree sale. Collin County MGA asked to post articles posted on our public Facebook page and especially liked the Help Desk Question of the Week. We will promote article submissions with a slide at the next monthly meeting. The *Become a Master Gardener* page has been updated for the 2025 MG school. The Mailchimp account will need to be upgraded to accommodate the increased numbers of newsletter subscribers.

One of the interns is interested in creating YouTube presentations for earning PKS articles.

Highlighting PKS opportunities/events on the home page with a unique color as “PKS eligible” would make it easier to identify PKS opportunities for the members.

Garden Consultation Team – Barry Bloom

Active matters include:

- (1)** A Carrollton Elementary School Teacher request to start a garden for the current school year is being handled by Stephen Seawoester and Larry Thompson
- (2)** Northside Baptist Church for development of a four (4) acre tract vegetable "farm"/fruit orchard is being handled by Cindy Large, Zandra Faris, Coy Poitier, Katrina Poitier and Anna Townsley
- (3)** A Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School teacher wanting to bring a pre-pandemic garden "back to life" is unassigned due to lack of volunteers
- (4)** A Carrollton/Farmers Branch Outdoor Learning Center Specialist wanting assistance with a 3-sisters garden is being handled by Janet D. Smith and Jan Wier
- (5)** A Master Gardener intern requesting assist with Stone Park is being handled by Janet D. Smith and Zandra Faris
- (6)** A Life School Carrollton Elementary School counselor wanting to start a garden club at the school and to obtain assistance with planning is unassigned due to lack of volunteers
- (7)** A Paul Quinn College request for assistance with the installation of a drip irrigation system at the "farm" is being handled by Lisa Patterson and Debbie Williams
- (8)** First Christian Methodist Church requests landscaping assistance for a prayer garden to be constructed at the church being handled by Jan Wier and Fern Brown
- (9)** A Lake Highlands Community Garden request for assistance with its Rain Garden is awaiting volunteers to assist Deena Peterson, who has volunteered to work on this matter
- (10)** A request for information about starting a community garden at an apartment complex is pending a response from the requestor concerning whether the landlord will consent to the garden installation.

Inactive matters include:

- (a)** GCT Document Revision
- (b)** Fern Brown and Sandi Means-Bannon waiting to hear back from a teacher at Montessori Children's House & School can provide information on plant selection.

1st VP Report: Fundraising - Nancy Black

Nancy reported that DCMGA was represented on the North Texas Giving Day website; there have been two early donors to date. The campaign ends on September 19.

Nancy thanked the Communications team for their outstanding publicity for both North Texas Giving Day and the Fall Japanese Maple sale; this year there will be 155 trees including 27 cultivars. The sale will begin at 8am on Oct 9 and conclude at 5pm on Oct 16. Pickup will be at the home of Cindy Bolz on October 26.

2nd VP Report: Membership - Sue Smith

The two monthly meetings held at the Arboretum were well-received; Sue noted that the Arboretum staff was especially helpful. The September MG monthly meeting will be held on Saturday at CC Young. Janet D. Smith will be the speaker.

Community Outreach, Scholarships – Debbie Wood

Plans and recruitment under way for State Fair MG table inside Texas Discovery Garden, in addition to other member-driven PKS activities. There are 96 slots available for the State Fair; all but 17 have been filled. Highlighting successful PKS opportunities at the monthly meetings could help drive participation.

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

There are two Taste of the Garden events planned for September and two planned for October.

In August 1573 pounds of fresh vegetables were donated to food banks. Glen also expressed a concern that the Farmers Branch gardens may be defunded.

Publishing the extensive PKS FAQ slides on the website as well as publicizing that the FAQ slides are there in the monthly meeting was suggested. A link to these slides can also be included on the MYC communications.

Master Gardener School – Lisa Reese

The MGS coordinators and Khristal Oduwole met August 29, 2024. Topics discussed: AnneMarie Krupa will shadow the 2024-2025 MGS with the intent to coordinate the 2025-2026 MGS; the "interest survey" was completed by 53 respondents and provided more information. Khristal will continue to confirm presenters and finalize the 2025 MGS schedule; the Application goes online from 9/2/24 to 9/27/24. Interview dates will be Oct. 22, 23, 24, & 26 and will be conducted at the AgriLife office located at Hillcrest and LBJ. The process of converting Textbook Chapter Questions located on VMS into Google Forms / Quizzes is complete. The next MGS meeting will be Wednesday September 18, 2025.

Monica Nagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abbe Bolich seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 PM.