

**Dallas County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024**

Attending:

Monica Nagle – President
Abbe Bolich – Immediate Past President, Chair of the Nominating Committee
Sue John - Treasurer
Leslie Densmore – Secretary
Nancy Black - 1st Vice President, Fundraising
Sue Smith - 2nd Vice President, Membership
Sara Burke – Director-at-Large (Awards/Recognition, Scholarships)
Debbie Wood – Director-at-Large (Community Outreach)
Glen McGee – Director-at-Large (Volunteer Engagement & Project Liaison)
Neal Howard - Director-at-Large (Technology)
Barbara Anderson – Parliamentarian
Rick Coke – Chair, Budget Committee / Co-Chair Help Desk
Helen Dulac - Nomination Committee Member
Cynthia Jones – Co-Chair Communications; Nominating Committee Member
Mark Jones – Budget Committee Member
Zandra Faris – Chair, Financial Review; Co-Chair Communications
Cookie Peadon – Chair, Speaker’s Bureau
Barry Bloom – Chair, Garden Consultation
Jadi Oliver – TMG Director’s Meeting Liaison
Lorraine Hellinghausen – Potential Marketing Position

Absent:

Tig Thompson – Chair, Statistics
Khristal Oduwole – Dallas County Horticulture Program Assistant
Cindy Large – Chair, Continuing Education; Financial Review Committee Member
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
Joe Labay – Financial Review Committee Member
Lisa Reese – Chair, Master Gardener School
Stephen Seewoester – TMG Director’s Meeting Liaison – Alternate
Val Reiss – Master Gardener School

Guests:

AnneMarie Krupa	Lisa Centala
Janet Lane	Lisa Laclede
Carolyn Swann	Lisa Loughmiller
Deena Peterson	Liz Ming
Elizabeth Fabian	MaryClare Milner
Ellen Schwab	

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

Approve Minutes from the October Board Meeting

Abbe Bolich made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2024, DCMGA Board Meeting. Glen McGee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approve Minutes from the 2024 DCMGA Business Meeting

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

2025 Budget – Rick Coke

The Project Budget Committee has collected budget requests from all DCMGA projects and budgeted functions such as administrative activities. **Note:** The budget spreadsheet referred to throughout the budget discussion is attached. Monica thanked Rick and his team (Mark Jones, Denise Strueber, and Nancy Platt) for the enormous amount of work and effort in putting together the 2025 budget.

The Administrative section lists all the items included in this section of the budget including dues paid to organizations, insurance payments, credit card payments, software costs and other items.

There was a discussion regarding the responsible level of spending for the 2025 budget given a projected deficit of approximately \$30,000. Budgets, actual spending and bank balances from 2024 were examined. DCMGA is also fortunate that funds are available from both fundraising and interest income from bank accounts.

Glen McGee made a motion to continue review of the overall preliminary budget for 2025 currently showing a deficit of approximately \$30,000. Monica Nagle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The R&B1 budget was reviewed as reflected in the attached document. Expenses related to bees are a substantial part of the budget. There was a discussion regarding liability exposure and insurance coverage relating to bees. DCMGA insurance policies do not cover any injuries to visitors in any garden for any reason. AgriLife has no insurance coverage specifically for bees. However, Dallas County has liability insurance for anyone visiting on County property; Xiomara said that the County coverage would cover any bee incidents.

Rick Coke acknowledged the efforts made by Glen McGee and the R&B1 team to integrate the R&B1 finances into the DCMGA accounts and procedures.

Abbe Bolich made a motion to accept the preliminary R&B1 budget line items with conditional acceptance on the apiary line-item expenses pending confirmation from the County on liability coverage. Monica Nagle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Raincatcher's preliminary budget was reviewed as reflected in the attached spreadsheet.

Glen McGee made a motion to approve the submitted Raincatcher's budget. Abbe Bolich seconded. The motion passed.

With the adjustments made to community outreach and Speakers Bureau, the total budget deficit is now \$27,821.84.

Abbe Bolich made a motion to approve the total 2025 budget with total revenue less total expenses reflecting a deficit of \$27,821.84. Glen McGee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President's Report – Monica Nagle

Monica expressed profound gratitude to all the board members for their support the last two years and that it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as President.

Treasurer's Report – Sue John

The October Treasurer reports have been distributed; please contact Sue with any questions. Monica thanked Sue for her detailed financial reports every month.

Past President's Report – Abbe Bolich

Abbe expressed many thanks to the board members for their continued support of all we do. It has been a pleasure serving with you.

Director-at-Large – Neal Howard

The online support for the Fall Japanese Maple Tree Sale is complete. The JotForm for the Annual Membership renewal was a success. There is a need for support from 'tech-inclined' members to support IT project support. Monica suggested that Neal create a 'job description' needed for this support that can be sent to membership.

Investment of Funds – Joellyn Nobbe

Now that the 2025 budget has been finalized, Joellyn Nobbe will meet with the new DCMGA Treasurer, AnnMarie Krupa, along with current Treasurer Sue John and Investment Committee member Betsy See, to discuss whether any more funds can be moved into interest-bearing accounts.

Help Desk – Rick Coke

An event is scheduled at North Haven Gardens in November; this event is open to all members to earn PKS hours and will be publicized on MYC. Cindy Large has done a tremendous job in lining up speakers for the monthly educational meeting.

Statistics / Data Report – Tig Thompson/Carolyn Swann

The value of the volunteer hours to date is \$1,364,190; this is slightly less than 2023 level and also reflects an increase in the value of a volunteer hour. Education hours are up but volunteer hours are a little less.

Communications – Cynthia Jones/Zandra Faris

The number of Facebook subscribers is now 47,813; there were 57 posts. Recent updates to the website include replacing the MEMBERS ONLY tab with a DCMG ONLY tab and updating the AgriLife page. Board members will be updated at the end of the year once pictures are available. Monica thanked Cynthia and Zandra for their outstanding efforts in communicating DCMGA and DCMG information including Facebook, Mark Your Calendar, and the website calendar. Also, their link to the other county Master Gardeners has been extremely helpful.

Garden Consultations Team – Barry Bloom

Active matters include:

- (1) a Carrollton Elementary School teacher wanting to start a garden for the current school year - being handled by Stephen Seawoester and Larry Thompson
- (2) Northside Baptist Church for development of a four (4) acre tract vegetable "farm"/fruit orchard – now being handled by Zandra Faris as consult leader; other volunteers include Coy Poitier, Katrina Poitier and Anna Townsley
- (3) a Master Gardener intern requesting assist with Stone Park - being handled by Janet D. Smith and Zandra Faris
- (4) a Life School Carrollton Elementary School counselor wanting to start a garden club at the school and to obtain assistance with planning - unassigned due to lack of volunteers other than Sandi Means Bannon (a minimum of two volunteers required)
- (5) a Lake Highlands Community Garden request for assistance with its Rain Garden - being handled by Deena Peterson, Lois Diggs, Lisa Patterson and Nancy Wilson
- (6) a request from the Early Childhood Center Director at Dallas Day School for assistance in enhancing the current curriculum by adding outdoor learning through gardening of vegetables and/or wildflowers - unassigned while awaiting a response from the Director
- (7) a White Rock School North request for information about planting and maintaining Bee Balm, Mealy Blue Sage, Gregg's Mistflower, and New Gold Lantana was handled by Sheila Spotswood.

Garden team opportunities are open to all members. However, the leader must have Advanced Training certification. A minimum of two people are required for each team.

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.

Speakers Bureau – Cookie Peadon

There were 17 presentations scheduled for October but there was one cancellation and a rescheduling for a net of 15 presentations. There was also a no show at one of the libraries. Library presentations were an outreach that was started a little over a year ago and we continue to work with library staff to improve on their PR to promote their programming. A total of 485 individuals attended presentations this past month; total year-to-date contacts are 6016. Cookie applauded all the speakers and the wonderful job they do of sharing great horticultural knowledge with enthusiastic gardeners in our area.

1st VP Report: Fundraising - Nancy Black

October was a very good month for fundraising. Raincatcher's had a successful Jam & Jelly Sale with sales in the amount of \$2350. A finalized total of \$1525.00 was received from Communities Foundation for North Texas Giving Day this month. Last, but not least, the DCMGA Fall Japanese Maple Sale was our most successful one — 155 trees were sold, and our net total was \$3531.00. My heartfelt thanks to the Communications team for their tireless efforts in publicizing the DCMGA Japanese Maple Sale to all our DCMG'S and to the public — while also publishing a beautiful catalog of the trees online. Nancy expressed her deepest appreciation for the Japanese Maple Sale team (Bonnie Bergauer, Betsy See, Cindy Bolz and Neal Howard) for their dedication and commitment which ensured that each maple sale was better than the previous ones in 2023 & 2024.

2nd VP Report: Membership - Sue Smith

Thank you to all who helped put on 20 meetings at several locations with a long list of great speakers.

I particularly want to thank Dorothy Thompson, Joellyn Nobbe, Leslie Densmore and Monica Nagle for helping put the meetings together (and keeping them on the rails!) Thank you to Barbara Anderson who has always been around to step in and help or advise when necessary.

Cookie Peadon has been invaluable in leading the team to buy new IT equipment to enable us to record the meetings and reach so many more people who are unable to join us in person. Katie Hayes has been editing the recordings and making us all look a bit more professional!

Thanks to Glen McGee and Zandra Faris for their input.

The monthly meetings have been really well attended over the past two years, and this is in a large part to the work of the Communications team. Thank you Zandra Faris and Cynthia Jones for all the communications to the Association membership and further afield.

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

The Gardens donated a whopping 2524 Lbs. of produce in October. A Taste of the Garden was held at Kidd Springs Japanese Garden in October. Temple will have a Taste of the Garden on November 10th.

A greenhouse was delivered to Temple and there are plans for a Hoop House. Many of our gardens, including Anne Frank and Lakewood, had an increased number of students and adults visiting this month. TDG hosted a successful State Fair event. "KIDD SPRINGS JAPANESE GARDEN" was named "BEST PARK OF 2024" by Dallas Observer and called a "SECRET GARDEN" by D Magazine. The science director at da Vinci School next door to Raincatcher's garden has included the garden in their curriculum. Garden Liaisons had a couple of positive interactions with their gardens that look like they will generate educational opportunities.

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

The State Fair events were a great success and supported by many volunteers. There is an upcoming Scouting training event in January which may also offer potential for future outreach. Please send Debbie your comments on the use of outreach resources for next year in choosing between a single large public event or multiple smaller events.

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

Cindy Bolz, Queen of Acer Palmatum, received the Making a Difference Award at the October DCMGA meeting. Special kudos to Debbie Wood for State Fair efforts and collection of all the statistics that can be included in the TMGA award submissions.

Making a Difference award nominees for 2025 are being solicited.

DCMGA has been disqualified from participation in the TMGA 2024 Search for Excellence Awards but all information for award applications from this year will be forwarded for 2025.

Pending approval of the 2025 budget, DCMGA Scholarship information will be posted on the website and applications solicited. Pending approval of the 2025 budget, the DCMGA Gift Fund will be publicized, and a Gift Fund committee will be created to evaluate the applications.

Badges have been redesigned to allow a larger font for the names to be more easily read. All new badges and anniversary badges will be of the new design; there will only be one design available to all.

Master Gardener School – Lisa Reese

Master Gardener School Interviews were held Oct. 11-26. Summary: 89 total Applicants, 53 proposed accepted, 6 proposed alternates, and 20 proposed declines. At our Nov. 11 meeting, we discussed / finalized the proposed list of accepted / alternates / declines. Also, we reviewed and edited the Conditional Acceptance Letter, Decline Letter, Alternate Letter. We also addressed EVS / Background Check process as well as set the date and content of our next meeting.

Barbara Anderson was recognized for her invaluable service and sage advice for the TEN years of serving as Parliamentarian for the Board. Thank you Barbara!

Sara Burke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abbe Bolich seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:24PM.