

# Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.

## Board Meeting

January 24, 2023

President Mike Barron called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. via Zoom. In attendance were (alphabetically): Alan Baker, Mike Barron, Margo Carroll, Rhoda Hiller, Rita Reali, Gregg Upchurch, Glenda Wisdom.

### **Meeting Times**

Mike said he'd like to look into experimenting with starting meetings a little earlier, possibly holding the March and April meetings during the day. Since it's less than two weeks away, and it would be inconvenient to change the time now, the February meeting will be held as scheduled. Besides, Rhoda already has a speaker lined up: John Conrad will be speaking about the trails system within the county.

Discussion of venue options for general membership meetings with increased attendance, given that interns are invited to attend. We discussed having the meetings in the larger room in Building 1 of the complex. Gregg floated the idea of holding meetings at the state park or at a local restaurant and having everyone pay for their own meals.

Mike said he'd send out an email with the agenda, speaker/topic, and meal theme a week ahead of each general meeting.

### **Sales of Merchandise to the Public**

Alan addressed this. He said sales of almanacs and CDs bring in minimal money. If we wanted to focus on selling merchandise, as long as we stay below \$4,800/year we don't have to file detailed paperwork with the state. If we earn below the state-established \$10,000 threshold, we can file as a small business and the taxes/fees would be minimal. If we sell a lot, that would constitute a burden on the treasurer, who would have to file monthly sales-tax reports. Alan cautioned that missing a month would incur fines. And once we register as a business, the assessor's office would require us to pay taxes on items in inventory. Bottom line: If we're going to do it, we should do it legally and the right way.

Glenda moved to table the issue 'til the April timeframe. Rita seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote. Alan will make an inquiry with the county clerk as to the best way for our organization to proceed.

### **Budget**

Glenda reported we've received two donations totaling \$70 (for which she has already written thank-you notes), \$270 in dues payments and \$17 from the Hospitality jar at the January meeting. She has approved Shalena's ordering of brochures for the gardens. The board discussed the issue of charging a nominal fee for classes at the gardens.

As it stands, the budget is not balanced; on paper it runs a \$1,350 deficit for the year. It could be as little as \$750 if the projected \$1,500 income for the Teas in the Gardens yield an upward-revised estimated income of \$2,100.

After considerable discussion (and the fact several proposed events have no designated chairs or even definite plans for implementation – except for the Teas in the Gardens, which has an active committee and three events scheduled), Rita moved and Glenda seconded approval of the budget as proposed. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

## **Fundraising**

Mike touched briefly on the difficulty of finding folks to step up to take the lead on projects/events.

## **2023 Intern Class**

Registration is closed. We have 26 people signed up and paid. Alan distributed a list of interns prior to the meeting. Given the size of the class, Mike said we'll need to support the classes, by making ourselves available to assist the program hosts (Margo Carroll and Louise Grilley). Rita said she'd help host and bake treats each week. Mike suggested we promote the classes among the membership and invite them to take part in the sessions and help with hosting. Gregg confirmed both CEU and volunteer hours accrue when helping with classes. The first session, January 31, will be an overview of the CCMG program. Margo suggested having photos of various aspects of the program on display to help interns better visualize what's what, because it can be confusing for new folks. Alan said we use a lot of acronyms and it'd be helpful to have a glossary to sort out the alphabet soup of garden jargon.

Alan also asked about the mentor program, which had been in place for several prior years' classes. Mike reiterated it's been difficult to get folks to step up and take the lead on things and suggested it'd be nice if we could have "buddies" set up for the incoming class. Gregg said existing members' engaging with interns is key to getting and keeping them involved and connected with the program and the organization. Engaged interns are more likely to be active and involved members later. Rita will compile list of names/email/cell numbers of folks who are willing to be "buddies" for new interns. She'll copy and distribute to the interns at the first meeting.

## **Final Thoughts**

Rhoda thanked Gregg for setting up the Zoom call. Mike echoed his appreciation.

**Adjournment:** Rhoda moved to adjourn. Glenda called it a frivolous motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary