

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Board Meeting
December 19, 2023

President Mike Barron called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. at the Country Store; Alan Baker, Mike Barron, Margo Carroll, Rhoda Hiller, Rita Reali and Ernie Wood attended.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Rita Reali reported. Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed via email. Alan moved to accept the November board minutes as submitted. Mike seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Alan reported. Through 12/18/23, total income was 9,158.37; total expense was \$10,861.90, for a net operating loss of \$1,703.53. The bank book balance was \$10,608.91. The memorial bench fund and the PDG support fund were unchanged. We've received \$409.90 in booth rental income for the 2024 Flower and Garden Show. Final storage rental has been paid and we've ended the storage agreement. Mike has applications from a few folks; one vendor (TriGreen) wanted to pay by credit card and Mike was unable to process it; he handed the paperwork off to Alan, who will take care of it. Rita moved to receive the treasurer's report. Ernie seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Vice President's Report: We won't have a speaker in January because we're having event and committee chairs/leads speak about what they do, in an effort to entice new members.

Director's Report: The gardens are done for the winter.

Meeting times: Discussion organically ensued regarding keeping the meetings in the daytime as opposed to evening. Mike will bring that up at the February meeting. Discussion of changing the board meeting time to accommodate Katie's need to pick up kiddos after school. We decided to keep the board meetings on the third Tuesday, but to push up the time from 1 to noon. Food for the January 2 general meeting will be snacks and/or finger food. We'll have no speaker, but event and committee leads should be prepared to speak briefly about their particular area of expertise.

New Intern Class: January 30 is the welcome session. It'll be from 9 to noon, the regular time for class sessions. Students may stay after the first official class to attend the February meeting.

Transition to New Board: No issues; Katie's the only newbie, and she's being guided along by Rhoda.

We need to provide the bank with a set of minutes identifying the new officers. Alan Baker moved that he be directed to coordinate the changing of signatures on the bank account at First National Bank of Tennessee, to have Michael Barron, president; Katherine DePoortere, vice president; and Alan Baker, treasurer, designated as authorized signers on the account. Rhoda seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Proposed Budget: Discussion of budget line items as prepared by Alan. The bulb sale fundraiser is a no-brainer and we've suggested an updated amount of \$1,600 for it. Margo said she's willing to

revise downward the targeted income for the FLAG Show to \$24,000. Dues will remain at \$15; we can reasonably expect to bring in \$1,050 (figuring on 70 paid members). Tomatoes and peppers are already ordered; the line item of \$1,000 is a good figure. The storage-space rental line item reads \$0. We agreed to delete the line item for the membership directory. Discussion of adding a line item for donations at classes in the gardens with no budgeted amount established. Going forward, Alan will provide organizers a record sheet to account for donations or other income from each event (e.g., classes, teas, events, etc.). He'll revise the budget based on our discussions here today, then present it to the general membership at the January 2 meeting. He will also let Shalena know what we've budgeted for, once we've approved the budget; he'd like us to be able to fund a small, incremental project for the PDG.

Rain Barrel Fundraiser: Margo presented the idea of doing a fundraiser, similar to how the bulb sale was run. We would have to sell in increments of 33 barrels, because that's how many ship on a pallet. Ernie mentioned incorporating rain barrels would tie in with TN SmartYard parameters. Mike said we could probably talk Walt into letting us have them shipped to the PREC. It could be a great community fundraiser.

Cookbook Fundraiser: Rita suggested doing a cookbook of recipes submitted by master gardeners. The one the Lake Tansi Exchange Club put out recently stands to clear \$3,000 on 200 cookbooks. Mike said we'd need to bring this before the membership to get their input and participation.

FLAG Show: Margo reported. The vendor map is filling up quickly. Vendor committee has been busy contacting prospective vendors. Another vendor committee meeting is scheduled for mid-January, to evaluate where they are and where they're going. Three food vendors (paying \$45 each) have already signed up. The volunteer and decorating committees haven't met yet. The publicity committee has already met and is gearing up and sending out articles. Margo's begun a "Did You Know..." social-media campaign. Mike said he's seeing the Save the Date info popping up all over the place on Facebook.

Rita suggested having lunch at the February through April meetings, to encourage the new interns to stick around for the meetings. Discussion ensued. We'll ask Gregg to consider footing the lunch bill as part of an intern-/member-retention effort.

Adjournment: Rita moved to adjourn. Alan seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary