

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Board Meeting
November 18, 2025

Vice President Carla Lund called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. with great force at the Country Store. Lisa Briggs, Tracy Scrimsher, Sharon McKinney, Carla Lund, Vicki May, Julie Lesko, Bear Lesko, Janet Coe, Rita Reali, Susan Stoneberg, Gregg Upchurch, Sid Morgan, Rae Hozer.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Rita Reali reported. Minutes of the previous board meeting were distributed via email and are posted on the website. Lisa Briggs moved to accept the October board minutes as submitted. Carla Lund seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa reported. Through 11/3/25, opening balance was 32,390.19; total income \$1,586.00; total expenses were \$318.91. The ending bank balance was \$33,657.28. She just received \$200 from Rae Hozer. Rita Reali moved to receive the treasurer's report. Carla seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Vice President's Report: Carla reported on the PDG Committee. She said Julie sent her a press release from the *Crossville Chronicle*. Cumberland County has been awarded a \$60,000 tourism grant. It mentioned signage and ADA. She distributed it to the committee for their perusal and review. Susan Stoneberg has an application for an I-40 highway "Attraction" sign. Discussion of signage, who handles it and who pays for it ensued. Gregg said UT's "Power T" logo is controlled by the Athletics Department. He suggested going to Marketing and Communications instead of the Dean's office. Discussion of existing signage at PREC/PDG facility.

Specialty license plates for Cumberland County Master Gardeners. Discussion ensued. The consensus was we should contact Marketing and Communication at UT to explore viability. Gregg said Hailey Harven would be our contact there.

State Tourism Magazine: Susan Stoneberg asked how to get into the 2027 issue. She also asked how to publicize that the facility has a suitable RV turnaround.

Carla mentioned we need to get two 100-foot hoses for the gardens. Discussion of underground irrigation system. Vicki said until we can run the underground irrigation throughout the PDG, we can use "quick connect" hoses to access the existing underground system.

Discussion of removing the long-completed hydrangea-trial plot, which has been there since 2009. The daylily bed conundrum also needs to be addressed. Discussion of repurposing prior years' garden plots. Gregg suggested we assess what kinds of beds we need: annuals, screens, edibles, etc. We should look at the gardens from a teaching standpoint. We could also establish a wish list of teaching beds. He said he wants a true research associate faculty member housed at the PDG to help with teaching curriculum. We could use the endowment fund to hire five summer positions to tend the gardens and pull weeds. Extensive discussion ensued.

Discussion of classes in the gardens, and registration for events. We need to get names of actual attendees, rather than someone came with three guests. Vicki May suggested we use Eventeny,

“which we’ve paid so much money for,” for names of registrants/attendees. Rae Hozer read from a sheet that was revised in 2002, “we didn’t have any of that electronic stuff,” but they evaluated each class, indicated interest in MG training, and asked for recommendations of topics they’d be most interested in learning more about.

New MG Database: Gregg said they’re revamping the MG database to streamline and facilitate tracking of hours. Meanwhile, Eventeny could be used more efficiently for the Fall Gardeners Festival, as well as the Flower, Lawn & Garden Festival and Garlicfest.

MG class signups: We’ve got “nine and a half” folks signed up, Bear said. The half, Gregg explained, is someone who may or may not make a good volunteer.

Vice President Lund adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary