

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.

General Membership/Board Meeting

January 21, 2025

President Margo Carroll called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Country Store. Alan Baker, Lisa Briggs, Margo Carroll, Linda Ferris, Renee Lloyd, Carla Lund, Rita Reali, Greg Recht and Gregg Upchurch attended.

Opening Remarks:

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Rita Reali reported. Minutes of the previous board meeting were distributed via email. Lisa moved to accept the December 2024 minutes as submitted. Carla seconded. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Alan reported. Lisa has all the documents for proceeding with her treasurer responsibilities, going forward. At the bank, Alan said they need all three signatories (Margo, Lisa and Carla) to show up together to sign papers. He's not aware of any transactions since the last report, although Margo did make one deposit of two checks. Alan is meeting with Chuck Elgin tomorrow afternoon to do the audit of the books.

Old Business:

FLAG Festival: Meeting was this morning; plans are moving along.

PDG: This is the 20th anniversary of the PDG. It would be nice to have all the garden spots adopted and cared for to make it look especially nice, or revamped as necessary.

Umbrella Committee: Next meeting is Thursday at 9 a.m. Gregg gave an impromptu explanation of the history and purpose of the Umbrella Committee and the Plateau Discovery Gardens, and answered questions from the board.

Member Survey: Margo wants to know if we have additional questions to add to the proposed member survey (spouse/significant other; interests; day trip interest; speaker topics, what do you want to get out of this organization, more social activities, group gardening activities, etc.). Alan suggested we have one standardized method for collection of info for the survey, and he'll send it out to the membership.

New Business:

Greenhouse: Greg asked Gregg whether it would be beneficial to have the 2025 intern class participate in building a greenhouse at the PDG to earn volunteer hours. Gregg said the proposed hobby greenhouse is fine for a family, but it's nowhere near close to big enough to be practical and serviceable for the master gardeners to use. Any hard structures need approval from Walt. Greg asked if we'd need to pull a permit; Gregg said we don't. Alan suggested, rather than spending money on putting up a greenhouse, why not spend the money on something educational for the community?

Communications Committee: Linda asked if we have a Communications Committee. Margo said Kristi Dubois is doing a fine job with publicity and newspaper articles.

Documentation of CCMG History: Margo said Vicki May is working on getting Adopt-a-Spot filled out, as well as documenting the history of the CCMG, which would tie into the history and creation of the gardens, as well as the individual garden spots. Carla said the dragonfly folks are compiling a book of how it came together, the history of it and how it all worked out. Book was supposed to be kept in the greenhouse, which is now up in the air. Gregg encouraged them to digitize as much info as possible. Alan said the secretary's duties previously included keeping and maintaining a scrapbook: news clippings, photos, etc. He said Erin Fletcher Conley probably has about 25,000 photos. Alan suggested this might be a good project for the incoming intern class to undertake. Renee suggested, since he's not treasurer anymore, he might take on the Historian role.

Partnership with Friends of Cumberland Mountain State Park: They want to partner with us; they're doing a lot of native planting ("in the dead of winter," Linda added).

CCMG Almanac: Margo said it's an awesome resource (she got hers in 2022).

MG District Meetings: She's had two phone calls from other groups about things we're doing, so it might be beneficial to have small-scale district meetings or events.

Roundtable: Alan hasn't spent any time checking on the new website in the past 30 days. Margo said Kelsey worked on some things last week, and she's providing photos/documents to add to it. He would be opposed to having a website that doesn't serve members' needs. Kelsey was to have opened an account in the name of the CCMG and not renew the existing hosting/editing service. Margo will send out a dues notice in the next member email. Alan will do the directory once he knows who's paid. Gregg said the Master Gardener Intern class kicks off next Tuesday at 9 a.m.

President Carroll adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita M. Reali, Corporate Secretary