

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board Meeting
July 21, 2026

In President Margo Carroll's absence, Carla Lund called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. at the Country Store.

Attendees: Carla Lund, *Susan Stoneberg*, Sharon McKinney, Lisa Lee-Briggs, Kristi DuBois, Vicki May, Julie Lesko, Bear Lesko, Janet Coe, Karen Wyatt, Dave Armbrust, Mike Barron, Gregg Upchurch

Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: Sharon McKinney reported. Minutes of the previous board meeting were distributed via email and will be posted on the website. *Changes to the June board minutes are as follows: Sharon will correct Peggy Mullett's last name, remove Leslie Mullican's name from two lines in the 'Help Wanted' section, and add Karen Wyatt to the Director list.* Bear moved to accept the June 2026 minutes as corrected. Lisa seconded. Motion passed unanimously on verbal vote.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Briggs reported. Through June 30, 2026, beginning balance was \$39,896.72, total income was \$10.00, total expenses were \$2627.61, ending bank balance was \$37,279.11. Bear moved to receive the treasurer's report, Vicki seconded. Motion passed unanimously on verbal vote.

Old Business:

- Carla reported the drone pictures and videos are done and ready for viewing. They will be presented soon. We want to recognize 'Sam' for doing work for which he didn't charge us, therefore saving us several thousands of dollars
- Work on fundraising and grant opportunities continues. The brochure and other visual presentations are in progress with the goal of showing to prospective donors to help us complete our mission and vision
 - We would like to know if any MGs are a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, or any organization that may be able to donate/advertise/promote our proposed projects. If so, please let any board member know so that we can work with you. As an organization, CCMG can join these types of organizations, which should be helpful for networking- information and applications will be sought
 - Recognizing donors was again brought up due to their importance- we are still considering options such as a donor wall and a patio with donor bricks
 - Fundraising and projects are being accomplished for CCMG to be carried out at UT Gardens- Crossville (UTG-C)
- UTG-C purchased a new gas-powered golf cart, and it was noted it sits higher than the previous electric one- it may not be ideal for people to get into it if they are mobility challenged

- We are looking into purchasing a golf cart for MG use, likely a used electric one. We may be able to get one from a golf course or estate sale. Questions that need to be answered include who would maintain it and where it would be stored

New Business:

- Our annual holiday luncheon is set for Tues, December 1, here at the fairgrounds in the last building. Would someone step forward to coordinate this event? Lisa will be of assistance
- *Dereck* from UTG-C will be coming to our August 4th general meeting to introduce himself and tell us about a new safety measure discussed at the July 16th umbrella meeting (a monthly meeting of MGs and UTG employees)
- UTG-C's plot # 8 (Raised Bed Demonstration) needs renewal; the beds are old and too high for wheelchair-bound visitors, the strawberry plants are not producing fruit, more vegetables are needed, etc. This will be brought up at the next umbrella meeting (Thursday, August 13th @ 9am). It was suggested it may be a good project for the 2027 interns to take on if Shalena couldn't do anything about it this year
- Trial plots: Gregg mentioned the tomato plants are not doing well in the UTG-C vegetable trial area- Natalie Bumgarner may send samples to a lab to determine the problem. Also, the cool season turf has been sprayed by Becky Boling, and the warm season grasses need to be kept mowed
- Margo joined us by phone at the end of the meeting to let us know of an opportunity to purchase T-shirts promoting the Dragonfly Habitat. They will be available to order online (more information forthcoming)
 - Thirty-six of them will be available for sale to the public at the Fall Gardeners' Festival (Tuesday, August 25th) at UTG-C. A motion was made by Margo to allocate \$500 from the budget to purchase these ahead of time. It was seconded by Lisa and the motion passed unanimously on verbal vote. They will retail for \$25

Announcements:

- Beware of **fire ants** at UTG-C! Report them if found; mounds are being marked with flags
- For the upcoming General membership meeting 8/4, we'll have fellowship at 12:30, *then some introductions.*

President Carroll adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, August 18th at the Country Store.

Respectfully submitted as corrected,
Sharon McKinney, Corporate Secretary