

Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County

Nov. 18, 2024 Advisory Committee Notes/Minutes

Attendance: Dave Appel, Tammy Currier, Deborah Osgood, Ellen Comeau, Shoshana Wodzisz, Melanie Biche, Anya Milgrom, Kate Rosfelder, Joan Pellegrin, Gretchen Faro, Cheryl Dever, Deb Dougherty, Sue Pandoli, Tom Capretta, Morning Robinson, Debra Stewart (guest)

Meeting was called to order at 4:07 by Ellen Comeau. We welcomed guest Debra Stewart who is a MGCV from Franklin County. The August 19 and October 28 minutes were approved unanimously without correction.

Treasurer's Report

Kate's company Merrill Lynch is matching her gift and making a \$500 grant because of her volunteer hours. They will need the legal names of all AC members for the grant.

Preliminary 2025 budget is in development. We have a \$3,146 loss to date. \$5,240 in expenses along with some smaller expenses are expected by year end. We will see some income from Encore. \$8,100 was received in contributions, with \$3,000 of that from an IRA designation. Thank you notes to donors will be sent. Thank you to Cheryl for her financial work to date. Financial report noted and filed.

Coordinator's Report

Tammy's report was distributed. She is following up with stragglers to enter their hours. Recertification is coming up. There are 30 new interns in Basic Training. There is a "Good Agricultural Practices Training" offered by OSU and Tammy would like to see all MGCVs take at least the 1 hour training offered. The State Conference will be held in Wooster this year. Tammy encourages all AC members to share and create posts for Facebook.

ANR Report

All Basic Training interns passed their final test. There will be a volunteer fair in the winter. Mentors and interns are paired and will communicate with each other. Continuing Education calendar is to be developed.

Fundraising

The 3rd Candid session was attended by several MGCVs. 2025 fundraising targets and plans are being developed. Spotted Lantern Fly "swag" will be offered to new donors.

Information for School Garden Inquiries

We get calls from schools for assistance on starting a school garden. We don't provide hands on assistance but we can let them know that we have horticultural community education programs available. We could develop a packet to help schools evaluate readiness for a garden. Ellen and Anya will develop a checklist and info sheet and ask AC members to review and add additional items or information.

- There was a discussion of MGCVs who are currently inactive. Tammy will follow up with them as she does each year.
- Gretchen has agreed to serve as a non-voting member of AC for 1 year beginning Jan.1, 2025 to help complete the organizational restructure, assist with finance and other AC business. This was unanimously approved by an AC vote.

Program Evaluation Forms and Process

We need to develop a process to “evaluate the evaluation.” We will have the committee chairs present on ZOOM – 3 per hour, 20 minutes total. We will provide our questions ahead of time and a link to the budget. Jan. 21 will be the first evaluation call 6:30 – 8:00pm. First evaluated will be Tech and Website, Tri-C Encore and Hort Therapy.

- Organizational guidelines and questions are still to be determined. AC members will be emailed by Dave and should respond.
- Annual Meeting will be March 8, 2025 – a morning meeting with simple foods to be served to keep expenses low
- Carol Braverman and Lynn Sniderman were approved unanimously to be granted Emeritus Status
- Melissa Supler was approved unanimously to fill the Advisory Committee vacancy

2025 Meeting Dates 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Jan. 27, 2025

March 24, 2025

May 19, 2025

August 18, 2025

November 17, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Submitted by Deborah Osgood, Secretary