



# Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

## Annual Meeting

### December 11, 2021

### Via Zoom Technology

**12:00PM Call to Order by President Barbara Baker**

**Present:** 43 members attended virtually. A quorum was present.

President Barbara Baker welcomed members and described the silent auction item, a beautiful garden themed quilt. The bids start at \$100.

She also encouraged Membership Renewals. The Foundation is now using the software Cheddar Up on the Master Gardener Foundation Thurston County (MGFTC) website to process memberships. When you renew, you may also donate to the Foundation. Please renew now.

She described the Door Prizes for the meeting, including MGFTC calendars, a hat, a lanyard, a grow bag and a left-handed angle weeder.

#### **2021 and 2022 Goals**

President Barbara Baker described our accomplishments in 2021. Highlights include: The Roots n' Shoots newsletter and new board member orientation. New sheds were installed at Closed Loop Park, Dirt Works, Foodbank/Children's Garden. An Irrigation team was formed and has begun work.

MGFTC is now registered with GuideStar, a service that connects nonprofits and donors. We surpassed our goal for bronze status and achieved silver status.

We made significant improvements in the use of technology. We implemented plant sale by appointment on the website. We initiated the use of Cheddar Up. We purchased new Audio-Visual equipment for the MG Program. We implemented Square, a program that allowed us to accept credit cards on site at the Plant Sale.

The Donation Acknowledgement process was simplified. The Financial policy was updated to include in kind donations.

We were able to accomplish a lot for a pandemic year. President Baker thanked all who worked so hard this year.

President Baker described the MGFTC Goals for 2022. The Board will do more work in reaching out to Foundation members. In 2022, we will send a survey to membership asking questions about their interests as well as preferences for the website. We will be asking what the public and members need from our website. The survey feedback will be shared with foundation members.

Charley Barron is stepping down as chair of the Communications committee, so we are recruiting a new leader.

The Board will continue to support the MG program project creating descriptive signs at Closed Loop Park.

The Publicity Committee plans to get MGFTC into the Olympian Source Book. It also plans to leverage the Panorama Retirement Community communications and Next Door, an internet forum, to share information about MGFTC.

The Board will continue to explore diversifying its financial support. We will continue to seek out appropriate Grant sponsorship. The Board will look into the viability of donations from minimum required distributions from Independent Retirement Accounts, Planned Giving, and Give Local. We will create a 2023 calendar. We will encourage donations through the state employees Combined Fund Drive as well as the Thriftway, Fred Meyer, and Amazon Smile loyalty programs.

President Baker also shared that the state Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference will be held in Olympia in September 2022. Current planning includes a hybrid of in-person and Zoom events. This could change if additional COVID restrictions are in place.

### **2022 MGFTC Budget**

President Barbara Baker and Treasurer Bev Bartlett presented the proposed Foundation Budget for 2022. The total budget for 2022 is \$54,635. The total assets of the Foundation, as of 11/30/2021, are: \$176,543.

Treasurer Bartlett noted that the budget reflects the increasing cost of watering the demonstration gardens and a new budget item for fixing vandalism. Since the state Advanced Education Conference may take place in Olympia in 2022, expenses for sprucing up each demonstration garden are included.

Income is derived from membership fees, grants, in kind donations and fundraisers. The Plant Sale Team did excellent work selling plants despite the difficulties of operating under COVID restrictions.

The irrigation projects for the demonstration gardens are not part of the regular budget and should be paid from reserves.

Following questions and a discussion, a motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Donna Doerer and seconded by Diane Stanger. The motion carried.

### **Election of Officers**

President Barbara Baker announced changes to the Foundation Board. She thanked the departing MGFTC Officers whose terms expired: Bev Bartlett, Treasurer; Donna Doerer, Vice President; George Cowan, State Representative; and Sharon Parsons; Member-at-Large.

She then announced the nominees to replace the departing MGFTC Board members. The nominees are: Pamela Lovinger, Vice President; Sharon Parsons, State Representative; and Ellen Wendt, Member at Large.

MGFTC member Charley Barron made a motion to nominate the new board members and Lori Rynd seconded the nominations. The motion carried.

The complete 2022 MGFTC Board is:

- Midge Miller-Price, President
- Pamela Lovinger, Vice President
- Lucy Chaffin, Treasurer
- Sharon Parsons, State Representative
- Ellen Wendt, Member-at-Large
- Barbara Baker, Past President

Cori Carlton, MG Program Manager, remains as our most excellent Ex Officio Non-voting member. A new Board Secretary will be appointed in January.

### **2021 Awards**

President Barbara Baker announced the MGFTC Awards for 2021:

- Fundraising Award: Laura Westrup and Marcia Justis
- Team Fundraising Award: The Plant Sale Team
- Advocacy Award: Pamela Roberts
- Service Award: Diane Stanger
- Dorsay Fisher Award for Service Hours: TBA once service hours are counted.

### **Coordinator's Report**

Cori Carlton, MG Program Manager, began by thanking the Board for its work in 2021.

Ms. Carlton then shared the MG and MRC Commitment Process for 2022. All volunteers who intend to stay active will need to turn in a record of the hours they worked in 2021, including continuing education hours. Everyone will need to attend the Refresher Training in person, on Zoom, or watch the recording. And finally, everyone will need to update their status in CERVIS to record their intentions (e.g. active, inactive, on leave, etc.) for 2022.

Ms. Carlton is currently meeting potential students for the 2022 WSU Master Gardener class. She is pleased to be able to offer the full MG class again. Some of the class will be in-person and some virtual.

### **Meeting Conclusion**

President Baker concluded the meeting by announcing that Pam Roberts won the silent auction with the winning bid of \$150 for the quilt. Our new President, Midge Miller-Price thanked President Baker for all her work in the last two years. Our new Treasurer, Lucy Chaffin, thanked Treasurer Bartlett for all her training.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34PM.

Submitted,

Pamela G. Lovinger  
Secretary

Attachment: 2022 Goals and Budget