

SEWMG Member Special Meeting

5/18/20 (6:30pm) via ZOOM

In attendance: 44

Introduction

- While waiting for everyone to join, members were asked to show a word about their garden that brings them joy, written on paper and shown on the screen.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:36 by President Karla Geiger.
- Members in attendance were muted.
- "Chat" feature was used for comments/questions.
- Karla Geiger, President and Lars Paplham, Treasurer were introduced as the meeting co-hosts.
- Ann Wied provided a brief tutorial on the use of Zoom for this meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of the 2/20/20 meeting were posted on the website.

There were no questions or changes to the minutes.

COVID-19 Update - Ann Wied

Mike Maddox has reported that a designated group is determining the process on how MGVs will eventually resume activities, with priority being the safety of staff, volunteers, and clients. Mike has provided his input to that group and hopes we will have some guidelines soon. Right now MGVs are only allowed to work from home. When new guidelines are released, MGVs must work with partner agencies to see if our guidelines line up with theirs.

Review of Budget Revision by Lars Paplham, Treasurer & Virginia Geraghty, Finance committee member

Members were asked to please listen to the entire presentation before asking questions.

- Lars explained that the reason for the revised budget is the cancellation of the plant sale.
- He stated that we need to be flexible as we don't know what is going to happen.
- An email was sent several weeks ago to the ListServe asking Garden and Project chairs if they could make reductions to their budgets.
- Lars reiterated that if a garden cut their budget and then finds that they need extra money they can always come back to the Finance committee at a later time.
- Lars went through and highlighted some of the changes in the revised budget. He included some examples of changes from 2019 as well.
- Lars stated that the gardens and projects were asked to provide a range of expenses for their budget. The numbers in the new budget reflect the maximum expenses in that range.

Questions & Answers

The following questions were raised and answered:

- Question: Why was the UW Foundation donation cut? Answer: This is a discretionary expense that we do not feel we should make this year when we do not have any income coming in.

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- Question: Why is the Trade show expense still in the budget? Answer: The Trade show expense is for potential State fair ticket expense for volunteers.
- Question: What is the savings under Treasurer expense? Answer: There are no reimbursements for level 1 training, so postage and stationery expense is down.
- Question: Is a credit for insurance expense possible because of the cancellation of the plant sale and the Home Show? Answer: Renters and directors' and officers' liability insurance are the biggest portion of this expense.
- Question: Dues for 2020. Will master gardeners pay \$20 or \$25? Answer: MGVs will pay \$20 and \$5 will go to WIMGA.
- Question: What is Town Hall that was cancelled? Answer: Town Hall is a garden.
- Question: How much does SEWMG have in the bank accounts? Answer: \$156,000. We will have \$125,000 - \$130,000 at the end of the year. Although we are cutting the budget, we will still have to take money out of the reserves.
- Question: Are we going to organize a mailing to cover the deficit? Answer: No, because we have a reserve.
- Question: Will there be a plant sale this year? Answer: The results of the survey were shared with Diane Thieme. She stated that the consensus is to run a mini sale once we have permission from Extension to open. We will also be selling t-shirts.
- Question: What if a master gardener would like to donate money? Answer: Money can always be donated by sending a check to Lars Papham.

A motion was made by Diane Thieme to accept the revised budget. It was seconded by Virginia Geraghty. The motion carried with 42 ayes and 2 dissenting votes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.