MASTER GARDENER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES January 12, 2022

The meeting of the Extension Master Gardener Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:30 pm by Candice Hart. The meeting was held via Zoom. Also in attendance were: May Bach, Bruce Black, Sally Cook, Heather Coyle, Sarah Fellerer, Jennifer Fishburn, Pat Gunnerson, Brittnay Haag, Nancy Kreith, Jenny Lee, Judy Panico, Gwen Podeschi, Sarah Vogel, Jennifer Warren, Jana Waite, Jane White, and Vicky Wyffels.

- 1. Introductions were made. Minutes from the November 3 meeting were approved. There is one open position on the committee Austin Little from the South- counties Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph, and Williamson.
- 2. The majority of the meeting was used to discuss the Know More Grow More and 4-H allocation applications. Funding for the KMGM allocations comes from the state master gardener conference silent auction. This year's funding of \$3,500 came from the state master gardener budget since we didn't have a silent auction at our zoom conference.

We discussed several ways to allocate the funds between the various projects. In order to standardize the process, all applications which received a score of 80 or above were able to move on. Applications scoring lower than 80 required a hard look to determine if they should be funded. The Mercer County project received a score below 80 and was eliminated from funding this year.

The highest rated project, from DeWitt County, requested \$350. The decision was made to completely fund this project. Several funding methods were discussed to divide the remaining \$3,150 in total funds:

- A. Divide the amount evenly between the 7 remaining projects, giving each project \$450.
- B. Divide the \$3,150 by the amount the remaining projects requested (\$5,315), giving each project 59% of their ask.
- C. Use method B or another allocation method but round to more even amounts.

3. Other business - Rebranding the on-line MG training is continuing, with plans to complete rebranding before the spring roll-out. The rebranding effort is being done to limit confusion of the on-line training. The training is open to both individuals who want to volunteer as Master Gardeners and individuals who want the horticulture knowledge but do not plan to volunteer. Since it is currently labeled "Master Gardener" training, it can be confusing to the latter group.

Partial fee waivers to reduce the cost of the on-line portion of the MG training could be a way to get more diversity in the MG program.

- 4. Work continues on replacing the volunteer time tracking tool (VCMS) with GivePulse (GP). GP and IT are meeting weekly and making progress but it is slow going. When ready, GP will be piloted before it is rolled out state wide. No implementation date is currently set.
- 5. Year-end MG survey is being prepared to send out this quarter. It will focus on volunteer/continuing education requirements and overall MG satisfaction.
- 6. Covid continues to impact our daily lives as new variants emerge. State MG conference is still scheduled as in-person in September. Need to determine the deadline for canceling if needed. Units are starting to do more in-person events and community outreach including MG appreciation events.
- 7. The next meeting will be held on May 4, 2022 from 10:00am to 3:00 pm in person at the Champaign Extension office. Zoom will also be available for anyone who doesn't want to travel.

Candice will be reviewing committee membership and recruiting people for open spots.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm. Respectfully submitted by Judy Panico, secretary.