

Final

Last Revised July 7, 2010

OMGA Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time: June 21, 2010, 11:30am-1:00pm

Meeting Location: Corvallis, OR

Attendees: Gail Langellotto, Tam Martin, Nellie Oehler, Sherry Sheng, Chuck Petersen, Anita Azarenko
(present for introductions, only)

Absent: Jack Wright, Dave Rugg

Introductions: Each member of the committee introduced themselves.

- Tam Martin: Washington County Master Gardener and 2010 OMGA President
- Chuck Petersen: Columbia County Master Gardener and OMGA Representative
- Anita Azarenko: Chair of the Department of Horticulture at OSU
- Sherry Sheng: Clackamas County Master Gardener and President of the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association
- Nellie Oehler: Benton County Master Gardener and OSU Extension (retired)
- Gail Langellotto: Statewide Coordinator of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program

Tam Martin also introduced Dave Rugg and Jack Wright, who were absent for this meeting, and introduced Chris Miao as a possible future member of the committee.

- Jack Wright: Douglas County Master Gardener and Past President of the OMGA
- Dave Rugg: Jackson County Master Gardener and 1st Vice President of the OMGA
- Chris Miao: Central Oregon Master Gardener and President of the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association

Housekeeping: We addressed a few tasks that will make future meetings easier to facilitate.

We will rotate note taking and moderator duties. For this first meeting, Gail Langellotto recorded notes and Tam Martin moderated discussion.

We decided that a meeting can convene if 5 members of the committee can attend.

Background:

Tam stated that the one year term of board and executive committee members makes it challenging to set and strive for consistent goals across terms. OMGA is embarking on a strategic planning process to better help the OMGA board set and meet goals for the coming years.

Gail presented a brief overview of the programs/domain of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, relative to the OMGA.

OSU Extension Master Gardener Program	OMGA
<p>Develops and disseminates research-based and objective information/programs/curricula on sustainable gardening and community food production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension Publications • Plant Clinic at Extension office, fairs, farmer’s markets, etc. • School / Demonstration / Community Gardens • Youth Garden Programs • Annual Master Gardener training and recertification <p>Administers the training and supervision of Master Gardener volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance • Background Checks • Reporting <p>An individual becomes a Master Gardener through satisfactory completion of the training course and volunteer internship.</p>	<p>Supports the OSU Home Horticulture (Master Gardener) Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowment Gifts • McNeilan Scholarship and other Scholarships to OSU Students • Co-Sponsors Mini-College • Purchase of PNW Handbooks for OR counties with an MG Program • Extension Educator Grant <p>Raises Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Sales • Garden Tours <p>Supports OMGA Members and Chapters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development (Leadership Day at Mini-College) • Dialogue/Idea Exchange at OMGA meetings • Files IRS paperwork, financial reporting <p>An individual becomes an OMGA member by paying dues to the OMGA and to their local chapter.</p>

Brainstorm: We brainstormed and discussed things that OMGA does well, or that OMGA could improve. Suggestions were made, during the brainstorming process.

Good

- Executive committee (Tam) visits chapters and puts a personal touch/face to an organization that would otherwise be amorphous
- Decisions are made via consensus, so that everyone’s voice is heard and respected
- OMGA has a lot of information available on programs, developments, etc.
- OMGA meetings allow dialogue and information exchange among MGs

Opportunities for Improvement

- Not responsive to urgent decisions.
- It is unclear what OMGA can and cannot do, under current rules, and this confusion slows progress.
- Communication could be improved. Folks don’t receive information in a timely matter.

Suggestions/Comments

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- Redesign Gardener's Pen so that it better informs and educates the membership about the OMGA.
- Look at ways of conducting business and the bylaws/policies/procedures, relative to today's technological tools, as well as the diversity of generations who are OMGA members.
- OMGA should consider how it functions as a support organization for the MG Program – 501(c)(3)s can lobby and fundraise. These are things that the MG Program can not do for itself.
- Post meeting notes on the OMGA website, and push information out to OMGA reps.
- Review OMGA budget, and describe how much money (member dues and raised funds) goes towards program delivery versus administrative overhead.
- Gail's vision for the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program is to be the premier source of research-based, objective information on sustainable gardening and community food production, in the Pacific Northwest. Reaching this goal requires that faculty members' positions are protected.

Committee members were read a portion of the minutes from the June 2010 OMGA Board Meeting, so that they were informed of an item that was recently voted upon and approved by the OMGA Board: "OMGA will actively support efforts by county Master Gardener Associations in their efforts to attain and retain their Extension Service Funding".

Also, we agreed to post three questions at Mini-College, so that OMGA members can have their voice heard. These three questions, which are listed below, were recently sent by the OMGA Secretary to Chapter Reps and Chapter Presidents.

The three questions are:

1. What is OMGA doing at the present time to fulfill the OMGA Mission Statements?
2. What do you think OMGA should do differently in the future?
3. What barriers do you see that would need to be overcome to get us from where we are now to where we would like to be in the future?

Closing: We made plans to meet in July, at Mini-College. The next meeting will be on July 28, 2010 8:30-10AM. The location is TBA.