

SEMG Advisory Council Meeting

December 13, 2022

Via Zoom

Present: Meg Hunn  
Ginger Golden  
Penny Lindgren  
John Thompson  
Scott Lake  
Kate Shaddock  
Michelle Wittie  
Beth Murphy  
Sandy Liakus

Absent: Rachel Zweig  
Mo Casey

GUEST Penny Davis  
Cathryn Richards  
Edwina Francis  
Kevin Konetsni

Meg Called to order, protocol advised

UPDATES FROM CHAIR:

Sandy, Penny, and Meg met to review the conference reimbursement policy. Rachel has concerns for the budget; that, as written, it's not sustainable IF all MGs take advantage of policy. Meg advised that part of the policy is an annual review when SEMG Budget is created, changes can be made in future. Sandy moved to approve the conference reimbursement policy. Penny seconded. No objections, policy approved. Scott will post on website; Kate will highlight in newsletter.

Update AC on website. Advisory Council structure in process and to be introduced in January or February.

Meg will contact members who have not paid dues.

Last year a SurveyMonkey was sent out asking what worked or did not work in our gardens. Meg asked if AC wanted to do again and when would go out. End of September was suggested. Kevin and Kate will work on updating the survey with Stephanie R.

Sandy had good news: a check was mailed to SEMG for \$1500, a donation from the Placitas Garden tour as thank you to SEMG volunteers.

Rachel was absent but sent a schedule to AC members to choose a meeting time to discuss the demographic reporting.

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Scott asked SEMG members use "contact us" page on website to find a person or to submit newsletter and calendar items

Scott will talk with Rachel as Lynda is still owner of the website and that needs to change.

Tracy went to office to look at computers and help Michelle with problem printing. Tracy reports computers need to be recycled. Michelle said we need software. Scott said our software is obsolete. Kevin went to the office and found one that worked. Kevin said we need a consensus of what we need in the way of computers. Meg asked Kevin and Sam to get together to make recommendations, as mostly needed for (maybe) master class presentations. Scott suggested we could get a new computer for \$500. Michelle wants to use printer in office to print seed saving labels.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Michelle advised 39 interns signed up. Penny reported that the online classes are not ready. Info from NMSU is needed. January 7<sup>th</sup> is the orientation date when interns are shown how to use online system. Mentors and interns meetings need to be set up. Teams have been finalized. We have been somewhat successful in reaching other communities. A person from Cuba and one from a pueblo have signed up. The class schedule has been sent to the calendar. Penny will send intern/mentor information for website to Scott.

#### OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The committee has received and reviewed two projects.

Michelle W submitted Sandoval Seed Share and Swap (SSSS). Penny reported the project is important and the committee had no objections. She thinks it could turn into a much larger project in the future. It currently needs a Co-chair. The project is different from seed library. Michelle advised the focus is on how and what to collect, concentrating on native flowers first. The budget presented is about \$200. At present there are no classes scheduled. Ginger moved to approve. Penny seconded. There being no objections the project was approved.

Sam Thompson submitted a project request for Outreach at the Corrales Library Gardens. They will require 8 MG to work the Storybook Garden and Pollinator Garden. No budget is necessary. This is a one time event. There will be a farm tour which is based on previous garden tours. Penny moved to approve. Michelle seconded, there were no objections. Project approved.

There was discussion on how the process of submitting a project and getting it approved worked. This was the first time we have used the process that was approved back in March where project requests go to the Outreach committee for review then to the AC for approval.

Sandy was glad of the process. Penny expressed some confusion but happy about it. Michelle said it was good but not want to see very large project handled this way.

Sandy gave an update on the new brochure for gardening for new residents. Sandy will get quote for the printing and will have an invoice from the designer. Brochure is beautiful and helpful!

Regarding the introduction of projects to the new interns in order to encourage volunteering, Penny said they're still in conversation. They want to do an in-house with interns. They could meet in person or will update video from last year, depending upon community sickness levels.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Beth gave the treasurer's report. She indicated that PayPal was over budget because more interns signed up (increasing paypal fees). She reported Corrales Family Practice expenses are submitted all at once. They receive funds from MD VIP. Linda Walsh and Barb Boyd request these funds. The treasurer takes as donation then pays expenses. She is working on an electronic submission of reimbursements. She will have new budget amendment for approval in January that includes the new project budgets.

Clarification from Beth regarding conference reimbursement. It will not be called a scholarship. It is a benefit offered to Master Gardeners who want to attend conferences to enhance their knowledge. SEMG has the capability to give scholarships to attend MG internship training on a need basis, this will be handled confidentially.

#### STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Lynda G and Sonia are adding volunteer profiles to the Cervis software. They plan to do training for interns and veterans. The electronic manual is on hold until early 2023. Public classes will be promoted after training classes. Will charge for public classes. May be able to transfer credits to a master gardener program.

NMSU is on a calendar year reporting. SEMG is considering going to a calendar year model too. Rachel encouraged us to do that. Matter tabled to get input from other chapters like Santa Fe.

Guest Feedback: None

Respectfully submitted

Ginger Golden, Vice-Chair