

1a. Meg Hunn called the November 14th meeting of the Advisory Committee of SEMG together at 1:00 on Zoom.

In attendance were Meg Hunn, Sandra Liakus, Penny Lindgren, Julie Rohr, Beth Murphy, Maureen Casey, Michelle Wittie, Tracy Bogard, Joan Ellis. Guests included Lynda Garvin, Theresa Harner, Cheryl Gatner, Gil Mogavero, Jennifer Martinez, and Jeanett Zeman.

Skipped ahead to item 3. Julie updated that there was no meeting of the NM EMG Advisory Council this month. New software is planned, Mo Mulligan has agreed to take on the training role, and additional volunteers are needed to run the other aspects of the database. NM EMG is seeking feedback on beginning a non-volunteer training program in High Desert Gardening for homeowners and/or commercial participants. This would be a fee-based program that could provide add'l funding for EMG. Guest Lynda Garvin indicated that NMSU will be responsible for that program, and it would be totally separate from the Master Gardens training. She also stated that "Extension Master Gardeners" is our name, and that it is not trademarked. She spoke of differentiation between the course targeted for non-volunteers, and the traditional course for Master Gardeners who commit to volunteering in their communities. Add'l feedback from AC will be sought via email.

2. Update from chair - Meg said that Rachel reported that Lynda agreed to waive NMSU's portion of the fees for a scholarship applicant/intern on a case by case basis. Rachel is leaving Sandoval County EMG for the PeaceCorps. Meg is seeking ideas to celebrate Rachel. Discussion occurred regarding the responsibility of filling the Extension Agent position.

Meg stated that the move to a calendar year means voting takes place in December. She asked if there were any additional nominations for Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer. There were none. Anyone who has paid their 2023 dues, Life Members, and 2023 intern class are eligible to vote in December.

The Ballot is: Chair – Meg Hunn, Vice Chair – Penny Lindgren, Treasurer – Beth Murphy plus write-in candidates for each position.

Meg suggested a January annual meeting to introduce new Advisory Council members, then Penny suggested to use the November 18th meeting to introduce the candidates in person, followed by an electronic vote in December. This may meet the intentions of the by law requirement for annual meeting ('a full membership meeting for the purpose of voting' - SEMG votes remotely now.) We were reminded that Saturday November 18th the Graduation/Candidate Introduction/Life Member/5- & 10-year Member/Intern Graduates are to be celebrated. Meg also stated that Tracy is showing her how to put the newsletter content on the blog.

4. Finance - Beth provided the financial report. She proposed working through the existing budget to help anyone needing tuition assistance. Then adding financial assistance as a line item to next year's budget. Meg suggested a neighboring county extension agent could be the person to review scholarship applications, and Julie suggested that Lynda Garvin could take on that responsibility. Question raised: do we need to determine if financial aid applicant receives federal assistance in the form of SSI, SNAP, etc for the purpose of reporting to NMSU.

5a. Communications – Tracy has done some reorganization to make the site more intuitive. She invited folks to contact her to learn how to do blog posts. She collected information on other website host providers. Expressed concerns about the performance of the current provider Go Daddy.

5b. Membership – Mo Casey reviewed Membership Report, copied below.

5c. Outreach – Restoration of the park at the county fairgrounds in Cuba are planned. Volunteers are needed to help with planning and restoration. There is no named chair yet.

The Health Commons project is still in process. A potential pollinator garden project in the Sandoval Flood Control building is in the works.

New Membership Engagement Team will plan 3 activities in 2024.

Working on finding co-chairs for Placitas Elementary School garden re-boot.

Information Tables will be organized by Antawnette Hailey and Mike Jakovich.

Mike Jakovitch plans to hold plant clinics in 2024.

5d. Education – We have 39 intern applicants, two from Cochiti, with a possible one more. Michelle indicated that there were 70 signed up for the graduation event. Badges are in. She is planning classes for seed saving and house plants. Reminded us of the November Gardening with the Masters class on poisonous plants, and January class on bees. There will be no December class.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41. Respectfully submitted 11/19/2023 Joan Ellis, Interim Vice Chair.

Membership Report:
Membership Report
As of: 30 October 2023
Maureen Casey, Membership Chair

Active – 200

Paid – 80

Reported Volunteer Hours – 102

Life Members, Exempt from dues/volunteer hours – 26

Inactive - 157

Resigned – 76

Recommendations

Send e-mails to those who have not submitted volunteer hours

Mentors to contact interns who have not submitted volunteer hours

Dues are not due until 31 Dec 2023. Follow-up in January 2024