

EMG Southeast Chapter, August 4, 2024

In attendance: Little Tree, Deb Heleba, Sarah Edelman, Janet Spencer (Danielle Lacroix not present)

Little Tree hosted the session on Zoom and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Sarah reported that she had been able to successfully sign up for Zoom and was waiting confirmation the following day.

She also found a coupon code that effectively brought the price for the first year of use down to \$147.92 (versus the original price of \$159.90, which will automatically renew next August).

There has been no change to the balance in the account.

Minutes of the July Meeting

There was no July meeting therefore no notes to review.

New Proposal – Discussion & Decision

Little Tree raised for discussion a proposal that “if a Steering Committee member misses three meetings in a row, they forfeit their position on the SC in the SE Chapter.”

Concerns were expressed that while this is a challenging time (growing season) for everyone, some degree of continuity and commitment is important. Fall will also be a very busy time.

Janet shared a perspective that it might be helpful to position this issue, and other attendance-related issues, as “expectations.” For example, if you receive a meeting invite (as upwards of 20 people do), it might be helpful to RSVP – this might provide a better sense of who will be attending and who will not, which is important to Project Lead presenters as well as Chapter members. On this point, Sarah suggested that since Zoom will now be operational, she can send a recurring calendar invite to all, so that people receive it on their devices automatically. That will tell us whether people are accepting or declining. The meeting participants agreed there is no reason to vote on this topic.

On the topic of SC member attendance, Deb applauded the group for being diligent in creating stability for the Chapter, which is largely dependent on attendance. Following general discussion, the decision was made that SC members each need to present a monthly report on their activities as Treasurer, Secretary, head of Social Media in order to keep the Chapter informed. If an SC member is not able to attend the meeting, the report should be shared with the Chair in advance of the meeting so that it may be presented.

Little Tree proposed a vote, to which attendees agreed and the vote was passed.

Project Updates

Little Tree shared that he has a project overview of the Hartford Community Center for Recycling and Waste Management Gardens ready to present at any time in the future.

General Discussion Regarding In-Person Gathering (Potluck & Tour)

- Little Tree offered that the Hartford Community Center for Recycling and Waste Management has space for a gathering in case of inclement weather. He also offered us a canopy for a larger gathering.
- Sarah reminded us that Phil invited everyone to the Ludlow Community Garden as well.
- She suggested a potluck, and offered a pop up tent and a couple of tables at either location, if needed.
- At either location, a tour would be appreciated.
- Little Tree will reach out to Phil to discuss possibilities and suggested a potential event in September. Deb mentioned the recently graduated Master Gardener class plans to visit the Ludlow Community Garden in October, so it will be important to coordinate and not overwhelm the site with large numbers at once.

The meeting was adjourned at roughly 7:35 pm. Little Tree made a motion to close the meeting, and Sarah seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

September 1, 7 to 8 p.m. Zoom meeting information will be provided via email invitation, once Zoom is operational for the Chapter.

Little Tree will solicit additional ideas for topics and presenters.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Janet Spencer on August 13, 2024.