



Board Meeting Minutes September 1, 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD					
Craig Smith, President	√			Sally Bolle, Vice President	√
Steve Smith, Secretary	√			Dianah Foster, Treasurer	√
COMMITTEE CHAIRS					
Julie Bird	√			Karol Carter	
Janie Grissom	√	Amanda Koran		Betty Peters	√
Cecily Roney		Nancy Schmid	√	Kathy Sobanski	√
GUESTS:					

Subject		Action
A.	Approval of Previous minutes	Minutes from May 5, 2026 were approved electronically and have been posted to MGSOC Website
B.	Call to Order & Conflict of Interest Review	President Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 18:30 and welcomed everyone back from Summer hiatus, No one mentioned any changes to Conflict of Interest.
C.	Board Reports	
	President	- Garage Sale (aka Marketplace) cleared \$4300, will make about \$4100 after sales taxes are backed out. The general consensus of the Board was to repeat the event in 2027. Last week of June or first week of August were suggested as possible dates, Craig will work out best dates with George at Telly's. - The MSUE Banquet was a success, plans are underway to plan a 2027 event.

Subject		Action
	- Still looking for a Garden Lead to assist with Hana's Garden in Oxford - The idea of a 50/50 cash raffle at the General Meeting was discussed. The consensus was to try it at the September meeting to see how well it works and then make a decision whether to continue	
Vice President	Sally filled the first merchandise order based on the new process. The price list loaded to the website has some incorrect pricing, it has since been fixed. Craig will ask Melanie to send an email blast to all Master Gardeners about this new merchandise process.	
Treasurer	Reports sent to the group via email. Please contact Dianah directly if you need more specific information.	
Secretary	2027 Grant / Donation application will be updated. Deadline is January 31, 2027, with review in February, and award in March. Steve will send the update to Sally to post on the website. - Steve will start work on a scholarship application for students with an interest in horticulture sciences as well as trainee Master Gardeners who join the MGSOC and provide 20 hours to MGSOC projects. The timeline for this may need to be different than the Grants since semesters start JAN, MAY, or SEP. - Still working on the Merchandise website, Craig suggested contacting Sarah Rautio at MSUE.	
D.	Committee Reports	
Conference	2026 Conference wrap up, made \$5213 on conferences after all expenses were paid. Betty reported April 24, 2027 at Oakland University has been reserved, working on a contract for next year's conference. We have started discussions with potential speakers for the 2027 Conference, secured one, working on 5 others. Over 100 survey responses showed that overall people really enjoyed the conference. Dissatisfiers were walking distance to vendors, no handicapped table areas, and a few food complaints. Our vendors also indicated that they would like the option to reserve a lunch if possible when they register. In 2027, we are looking at using both banquet rooms and vendors would pay around \$100 per table.	
Bowers Farm Teams	Nancy reported on several initiatives: - Arts, Beats, and Eats volunteers are still needed, email blast to members - Oakland County Parks has begun several renovation/improvement projects - Oakland County MSUE will be moving to Bowers Farm offices in the future, more to follow	

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	Corresponding Secretary	Excused, Cecily reported to Steve via email that several cards have been sent out to members.	
	Door Prize & Raffle	Janie had nothing to report	
	Fundraising	Craig mentioned that the Garage Sale (Marketplace) was a big success and perhaps we should consider a Spring Plant Sale as another revenue maker.	
	Hospitality	Kathy is starting to plan this year's Christmas party. Sites mentioned were: Piechniks, Troy Community Center, Rochester Community House and Telly's. Concern was expressed about the distance to travel especially if there is hazardous winter weather. The desire is to maintain a potluck dinner so members could bring their favorite dishes to share. Craig will contact Telly's and the Troy Community Center to determine conditions, rates, etc.	
	Greeters	No report	
	Marketing / Communication	Email blast will be sent to ask for Arts, Beats, and Eats volunteers, nothing else to report	
	Membership / Elections	We now have 101 members. Julie noted that this month we will be taking nominations for Vice President and Secretary. This will be for 2 year terms (2027-2028). Sally and Steve offered to run again. Announcement at next week's general meeting for other candidates to run.	Dianah made motion to accept nominations / Sally seconded
	Merchandising	Steve hasn't done much else on the new merchandise online store. Craig mentioned reaching out to Sarah Rautio to see what vendor MSUE uses and potential contact individuals	More to come
	Programs / Zoom Coordinator	Excused, no report. Craig is looking to form a Programs committee to assist Amanda with finding speakers for the 2027 season.	Craig, Sally, Kathy, and Amanda will meet to begin process
	Trip and Tours	No report	

Subject		Action
E.	Old Business	
	Nothing to report	
F.	New Business	
	Amanda had emailed Craig about having a Photo Contest. The Board would select a panel of judges, five finalists would have their pictures framed. All five would be shown at the Christmas Party, where participants would select the Grand Prize Winner. The prize may include 1 year MGSOC membership & gift certificate. Submitted photos would be featured on the website, in our printed membership directory, and in All That Jazz slides. The Board was in agreement.	Craig will send Sally verbiage for an email blast, to be announced at the upcoming general meeting with deadline dates.
G.	Adjournment / Next Meeting Adjourned: 19:50 Next Board meeting: October 6, 2026 HAPPY FALL!!!! Volunteer hours: 1.5 Future Meetings: Nov 3. 2027 meetings to be determined	Future meetings will be conducted via Zoom and start at 18:00

All reports are available from the Secretary. Requests must be made in writing. These minutes will be posted on our website, www.mgsoc.org but without financial information. They may also be edited for content.