Joint MCMGA and MGSOC Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2026

MCMGA and MGSOC Members					
Craig Smith, MGSOC President	✓	Sally Bolle, MGSOC Vice President	✓	Steve Smith, MGSOC Secretary	✓
Jean Persely, MCMGA President	✓	Lisa Lane, MCMGA Vice President	✓	Pam Horner, MCMGA Secretary	✓
		Dianah Foster, MGSOC Treasurer	✓		
Julie Bird, MGSOC Membership	✓	Amanda Koran, MGSOC Programs	✓	Betty Peters, MGSOC Conference	✓
Cecil Roney, MGSOC Corresponding Secretary	✓	Nancy Schmid, MGSOC Bowers Farm Lead	✓		
Michigan State Extension					
Melanie Fuhrmann, Oakland		Sherry Riedel, Oakland	✓		

	Subject		Action
A.	***Call to Order & Introductions***	• Jean called the meeting to order at 18:33. Craig and Jean discussed that the purpose of today's Joint Board Meeting was to look at our successes, challenges, and at potential collaborations on projects to help better and grow both societies. • Members introduced themselves and their respective roles within their organizations.	
B.	**Successes**		
	Craig Smith, MGSOC	• All That Jazz Educational Conference: 2027 is 13th annual, around 300 attendees, major fund raiser for MGSOC. Conference subcommittees chaired by Betty Peters. • Bowers Farm: Nancy Schmid coordinates volunteers to maintain gardens as well as staffing events. Some changes with Oakland County Parks acquisition but a lot of infrastructure improvements are happening. • Hana's Garden: Honors the four Oxford High School students who were shot in 2021. MGSOC is working with Garden team to develop a maintenance schedule, recruit MSU EMG volunteers,	**Focus on getting previous members back, utilizing scholarships to attract EMG trainees.**

Joint MCMGA and MGSOC Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2026

Subject			Action
		and to redesign and enhance current plantings. Certified as a MSUE volunteer site. • Membership Growth: Increased membership by about 20-25 this year to over 100 members. Developed the "Associate" member to expand reach, Offering FOG scholarships to trainees who sign up with MGSOC • Marketplace aka Garage Sale: 2026 was first annual event, a significant fund raiser for the Society, gently used garden tools and equipment, Telly's donated plants for sale. • Spring Plant sale (planned): Craig working with greenhouse managers and growers to host an event in Spring at the Troy Community Center. We expect this event to become an annual fundraising event for the Society. • Golf Outing (planned): Very preliminary stages of idea development, would need a committee just like Conference to plan with various subcommittees to organize event.	**Looking at fund raising ideas for further enhance society revenues**
	Sally Bolle, MGSOC	• Merchandise: Merchandise sales provided the initial seed dollars to start the Annual All That Jazz Conference 13 years ago. Although this is a significant money maker for the Society, it requires a LOT of manpower hours to inventory, move, sell, and ship the merchandise. MGSOC is exploring moving to an on-line store to decrease costs and improve efficiencies.	
	Jean Persley, MCMGA	• Board Member growth / recruitment: have been able to recruit members to the Board and expand membership a bit, Pam Horner reports around 70 members. • Educational Conference (planned): Looking at bringing back an educational conference perhaps in 2028. Craig Smith & Betty Peters would welcome any MCMGA members to our conference subcommittees so they can get some experience coordinating a conference.	**Focus on retention of current members in addition to recruiting new**
	Steve Smith, MGSOC	• Website / Communication: constant updates and refreshes with new information, this in conjunction with email blasts lets members know happenings and planned events. • Minutes: started documenting both Board and General meeting minutes for email blasts and website posting. This keeps members in the loop if they have to miss a meeting. • Google Drive reconfiguration: Previous google drive was under a former member's email, this creating issues since no one remembered the password. Create a new Google drive under the Society's Gmail and documented all passwords, contacts, etc. so it is independent of an individual's email.	**Importance of having society archives & electronic tools agnostic of any individual's email. Centralized storage of passwords, PINs,**

Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, Inc.
AFFILIATED WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Joint MCMGA and MGSOC Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2026

Subject			Action
		• Zoom: moved account from personal email to Society email. • Bylaws / SOPs: updated 2025 and posted to website, developed award & scholarship criteria / SOPs, offered to share information.	**etc.**
	Lisa Lane, MCMGA	• Monthly calendar of events: Jean had put together a spreadsheet of events by month and by officer which helps the MCMGA Board keep on track and address all required / planned activities. Steve has started for MGSOC but other thing took priority. MGSOC requested a copy of the spreadsheet	**Jean will send SOPs and calendar to attendees**
	Betty Peters, MGSOC	• Conference subcommittees to divide the work: Food & Beverage, Registration, Volunteer Coordination, Door Prizes, Speakers. For 2027, we have secured our speakers, contracted with over 21 vendors, and are beginning other activities with prizes, registration, etc. Again, MCMGA members are welcome to join one of the subcommittees to help & gain experience if desired.	**Volunteer hours for committee and actual event**
	Society General Membership Meetings	• MCMGA meetings have been the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Macomb MSUE office, 21885 Dunham Road Verkuilen Building #12 Clinton Township, MI 48036. Winter meetings are to be held on-line. Looking at potentially moving date to accommodate more members, still under consideration. Check website for more meeting information, MGSOC members welcome to attend. • MGSOC meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30pm (except December Holiday party) at the Troy Community Center, Room 304, 3179 Livernois, Troy, 48083. MCMGA members are welcome to attend.	**Check websites for meeting, time, and location**
	Websites	**MACOMB: https://macombcountymga.org** • Website has archived newsletters, password protected Board member only section, Foundations of Gardening information, Seed Library, Board information, Bylaws & SOPs. **OAKLAND: www.mgsoc.org** • Website has meeting information, Board and General meeting minutes, Board information, EMG Merchandise, Award / Scholarship information, Conference information, Bylaws & SOPs, many photos.	

Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, Inc.
AFFILIATED WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Joint MCMGA and MGSOC Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2026

Subject			Action
C.	**Challenges**		
	All	• Membership Growth post COVID: MGSOC Associate members, MCMGA alumni and friend categories to broaden appeal to others and help previous members to come back to the Society. • Communication: MCMGA does a monthly newsletter highlight Board meeting minutes, upcoming activities. MGSOC uses website and does a lot of email blasts to post minutes, events, and other items like Awards.	
D.	**Adjournment / Next Meeting**		
	Next Meeting	The members felt that this joint meeting of sharing ideas was very beneficial, provided lots of ideas and opportunities. There will be lots of spreadsheets, pdfs, SOPs, bylaws shared to help each other improve our respective societies. It was suggested that we continue to have conversation(s) perhaps every six months. Proposed Joint Meeting: June, 2027, exact date to be determined **Meeting adjourned: 7:50pm CEU: 1.5 hours**	**Jean and Craig will work to establish June 2027 date**

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.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Smith, MGSOC Secretary