Minutes

The University of Missouri Extension Council in Platte County
April 6th, 2026

The regular meeting of the University of Missouri Extension Council in Platte County in person at the EMGPC Greenhouse.

Members Present: Matt Burris, Tiffany Burris, Bobby McGee, Danelle McGee, Cierra Halbirt, Sarah Parker, Justin Parker, Sharon Warren,
Members Absent: Chris Kempke, James DePriest, Joe Vanover
Staff Present: GK Callahan, Todd Higgins, Marilyn Whitacre
Master Gardener: Carolyn Veller, Scott Wilkerson

Jera Pruit, County Clerk, presented certificates to the new members and did the swearing in of Justin Parker.

There was a tour of the greenhouse prior to the start of the meeting provided by Master Gardeners. Scott Wilkerson gave a presentation on how the charter got started and upcoming projects.

Minutes: The meeting minutes from the March meeting had a motion to approve by Sharon and seconded by Tiffany.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was adopted and submitted.

Carry Over Business & New Business

- Matt nominated Bobby for Vice President and Tiffany seconded.
- Tiffany nominated Sarah for Secretary and Sharon seconded.
- Tiffany made a motion to keep Cierra as treasurer and Sharon seconded.
- Sarah made a motion to appoint Scott Wilkerson to our council and Justin seconded.

A synopsis of the budget for the year is that we have the funds, but we will need to make some changes so we can prevent it being deficient next year. Master gardeners are doing great, raising money and we have several other small things that are not negotiable such as our bookkeepers. Most items in our budget are the same as last year, so we need to consider more options for fundraising and grants. We plan on giving this week and emailing out the budget by Friday and follow up Monday to vote.

A goal for the year is for us to work on marketing MU Extension. This can be done by meeting within our region and asking do you know about extension and what council offers. We can engage in our own communities alongside a staff member to present a power point. This power point is customizable and only takes about 5-10 minutes to go through. This is a great way to get our name out along with recruiting new members and identifying new opportunities.

The World Cup will be in Kansas City this summer and we would like to get extension branding out there. There will be an event at Riverside at the Morton amphitheater. Clay and Platte County could get together, but we will need volunteers to support this. Many members of the council seemed interested, and we will be able to participate.

Staff Reports & Regional Updates

Updates from EMGPC:

- Each member pledges to donate 26 volunteer hours on an annual basis, but many put in over 100 volunteer hours. There are a lot of opportunities to volunteer with the garden at the YMCA located in Parkville and programs to learn how to grow tomatoes, garlic, test soil, grow roses as these are just examples of programs completed last year.
- As we look to the future of the Northland Career Center, it is moving to a new campus in the spring of 2027. The greenhouse is currently on PCRIII district property, and we have been working with initiating youth programs such as the science club from the schools. They helped plant annuals and have been in the greenhouse every 2 weeks. They are growing plants to go in front of the high school and in raised garden beds. We also have a transition program for young adults who have special needs. We are teaching them how to get from an educational environment and transition to the work force. Master Gardeners have started this by teaching them how to plant seeds and these seeds have germinated and now we have healthy plants growing. 4 raised garden beds have been donated to these young adults. We will be meeting with the district superintendent to evaluate growing plants that can be sold wholesale or resale to florists along with the possibility of selling microgreens.
- In addition, KCMO Park, home of the KC north miniature railroad reached out to master gardeners this past July to convert 2.5 acres of grassland into flowers. By participating this gives us opportunities for teaching youth and more people in

the community. We would be able to convert 2.5 acres into wildflowers and would start by growing plants in gallon milk jugs which we would expect a 60% germination rate. Towards the end of May and first week of June we would plant those in a 7500 square foot area.

Elena texted about the Dorothy Day Cabin sharing there is a live artist resident currently at the cabin. Her name is Allison Bowman, and she is a visual artist. She uses her art as a tool for mental health and overall wellbeing. She is listed as Kansas creative arts as a muralist, and she will be in the cabin until the 12th.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon at 7:50 and seconded by Tiffany.

Submitted by,

Cierra Halbirt, Secretary