

# Minutes

The University of Missouri Extension Council of Platte County

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The regular meeting of the University of Missouri Extension Council of Platte County, hosted at the Mid-Continent Public Library of Platte City, was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair, Alan Novak.

Members Present: Eric Bradley, Sharon Downs, Alan Novak, Dalyn Novak, Joe Vanover, and Jen Wymore.

Members Absent: Jim Depriest, Valerie McCaw, and Chance Tacia

Staff Present: GK Callahan, Tracy Sanders, Todd Higgins, Marilyn Whitacre, Elena Stephenson, Matt Pezold, Shatomi Luster-Edward, and Elizabeth McGinley.

Guests Present: Cierra Halbirt, Matt Burris, Tiffany Burris, Sharon Warren, Jera Pruitt, and Carolyn Veller

Minutes: The minutes from the February meeting were adopted as submitted.

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

Carry Over Business & New Business:

- Appointed member, Eric Brandley and new members of the Platte County Extension Council, Cierra Halbirt, Matt Burris, Tiffany Burris, and Sharon Warren were sworn in to office by Jera Pruitt.
- Elections for officer positions were discussed. The responsibilities of each office were listed, and members were asked if they were interested in any particular position. Joe Vanover motioned that Eric Bradly become Council Chair. Sharon Warren seconded the motion. All in favor: 5 Abstained:1 Opposed: 0. The motion carried. Joe motioned that Matt Burris become Council Vice Chair. Sharon seconded the motion. All in favor: 5 Abstained: 1 Opposed: 0. The motion carried. Joe motioned that Cierra Halbirt become Council Treasurer and Secretary. Sharon seconded the motion. All in favor: 5 Abstained:1 Opposed: 0. The motion carried. The meeting was handed over to Eric Bradley, Council Chair.
- Council Orientation for new members began. GK explained to the council how Extension came to be and how Extension partners with the Universities and Counties to provide local programming. Some of the programs that Extension offers include Health and Nutrition (this can include but is certainly not limited to programming such as classes on canning and partnering with Farmers Markets to provide vouchers for fresh produce to those who qualify), Workforce Development (such as career development in area high school and middle schools, interview preparation, teaching courses at UMKC for leadership development and economics, and much more), Horticulture and Agriculture (master gardeners programs fall under this category, for example), VITA Financial Literacy program (taxes for low to moderate income citizens), 4H Youth Development, Community Development, and Community Health programming. Council is tasked with providing four pillars that create a strong Extension Council including Governance, Programs, Membership and Sustainability.

- o Governance includes administering the local budget, managing our county employee, Marilyn (who manages office operations for the council), holding council meetings and elections, making sure we adhere to legal requirements, and general decision making to be sure that Platte County Extension is operating and functioning as needed.
  - o Membership includes recruiting members who represent the diversity of the county. This includes having members of different ages, genders, races, backgrounds and from all different areas of Platte County to better represent the county as a whole. Membership training is an important part of the success of the membership pillar of a successful council.
  - o Where programming is concerned, identifying needs and concerns in the county that council programming could address is important. We work with the staff to find programming opportunities in the county.
  - o Sustainability includes finding funding to allow for the necessary programming in the county and to ensure that programs can continue in the future. We also complete an annual report and an annual audit to show transparency.
  - o While training will be ongoing, we will be focusing on how to keep our council sustainable. Fundraising, district option and grant funding are all ideas to keep the council sustainable above and beyond the gifts we are given by the commissioners. We will also focus on the management of sub councils that the extension council is responsible for overseeing, such as 4H. 4H council is currently controlled by the extension council and there are three active clubs in the county. We will continue to work with our regional bookkeeper as part of our regional approach to help keep council's financial responsibility streamlined.
- Cierra Halbirt and Eric Bradley will need to replace Alan Novak, Chance Tacia, and Jen Wymore on Platte County Extension accounts at Central Bank.
  - A district option planning meeting invite will go out soon. The 16<sup>th</sup> of March is a possible date for that meeting which will be held via zoom.

#### Staff Reports & Regional Updates:

- Dorothy Day Cabin basement has been cleaned out. Plumbing is to start this week. Master Gardeners will begin programming at the end of the month. There will be an artist residency April-June. There are plans in the work for a writing residency at the cabin. Elena met with Robbie Maxwell, who works with kids on the autism spectrum, to discuss the possibility of a community art project on the cabin grounds. Platte County Parks and Recreation have been sent a year of programming for the space. Joshua Shinn is planning a Veterans Read program to meet with local veterans to talk about issues they have as vets through literature and reading. There are also Thai Chi and Yoga on the lawn programs planned. Extension would also like to bring in the Music Box to put on a small concert at the space. Dorothy Day helped found the Green Hill Nature Sanctuary across the street from the cabin. Since she was both an artist and a conservationist there will be a focus of both art and conservation programming at the location. We can do 4H programming at the nature sanctuary for an outdoor classroom. The cabin has also recently been staged with some of Dorothy Day's books and dishes. GK can arrange with

council members for small tours of the Cabin if they'd like at the end of this month while Master Gardeners programming occurs (26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March).

- The murals are still in the works in downtown Parkville as a part of the Parkville Alley project.
- Matt has submitted some ideas for programming to the Mid-Continent Public Library regarding workforce development and economics. On Thursday there will be a program for Veterans who are getting into farming. This will educate them on local funding opportunities for veterans who farm locally. There will be a program next week for area growers and producers. This program is about mental wellness and how to cope with the stress of being a producer. Career pathway exploration programming at local schools begins soon. Matt has reached out to the Platte County school district to try to get that programming at Platte County High School.
- The new chapter of Master Gardeners in Platte County is going to try to focus some programming in areas where the Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners didn't already do programming. They'll focus more on programming in the Platte City area since there is already a community garden in Parkville. Carolyn Veller is the president of the new Platte County chapter. Todd and Carolyn are going to hold a zoom meeting with the Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners to try and recruit more members who are interested in programming in the Platte County area. There will also be a Master Gardener training course, likely this fall, in partnership with Andrew and Buchanan counties. The first classes this month will be held at the Dorothy Day Cabin on tool preparation and no till gardening. More programming plans will come as they secure volunteers for projects. Todd will also be visiting local farmer's markets to gather pricing data for the State Department of Agriculture.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon and seconded by Cierra. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Submitted by,

Jen Wymore, Secretary