

**Advisory Council
ACES via Zoom
December 9, 2020
Minutes**

Welcome: Sondra Henley, AC Chair, opened the meeting promptly at 10 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the November meeting which had been moved to December 9th via Zoom. 43 representatives attended the meeting remotely due to Covid 19. Sondra welcomed Tim Crow who hosted the meeting for Kerry Smith.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 4th Zoom meeting as emailed. The motion was seconded and they were approved unanimously.

AMGA Board Report: Michael Thomason, president of Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA), gave a report from the Board of Directors.

The following persons have been nominated by the Nominating Committee for the 2021 year: Myra Lassere as President, Devonne Ellis as Vice President, Sunita Graves as Treasurer, and Ann Sharko as Secretary. Nominated for the Board of Directors at Large are: Phyllis Clay, Jim Harris, and Sherilyn Osborne. Nominated for the Nominating Committee is Rodney Penuel. Michael thanked the AMGA Nominating Committee, Kate Musso, Chair, Susan Hagen, and Linda Wakefield for their hard work.

The AMGA board meeting which met the week before this meeting passed the 2021 budget of \$20,000.

ACES Report: Tim Crow said that Kerry Smith did not have a report this month.

Conference Announcements:

Myra Lassere reported about the next annual conferences.

1. **2021 Conference** will be held in the Anniston, AL, Civic Center April 20-22, 2021, with Calhoun County as hosts. The theme is “How Does Your Garden Grow?” They can only accommodate 125 folks for social distancing so sign up early. They are looking forward to a great conference next year.
2. **2022 Conference** will be held on May 2 to 4, 2022, in Montgomery at the Embassy Suites. The theme is “Behind the Garden Gate” and will be hosted by the Capitol City and the Central Alabama Master Gardeners.
3. **2023 Conference:** Tuscaloosa Master Gardeners are looking forward to hosting our conference in spring of 2023. More to come later

Announcements:

Please return your AMGA survey to Elouisa as soon as possible. Her email address is elouisastokes@att.net. If you need to mail it, her address is 2415 Glenn Street, Huntsville, AL 35801.

Ginny Holland, AC Nominating Committee announced the nominations for our officers for 2021. They are: Sondra Henley from Chilton County, Chair, Debbie Boutilier from Autauga County, Vice Chair, and Elouisa Stokes from Master Gardeners of North Alabama (Madison County), Secretary. The representatives voted their approval unanimously by roll call.

After the vote, Sondra thanked Ginny for her work with the Nominating Committee and designated Fletcher Harvey as Parliamentarian.

Sondra explained that some of the work being done by the officers was not in the Advisory Council Standard Operating Procedures so she asked several folks to look them over and suggest updating them

especially in light of doing more things on line. Those who were part of this committee were Fletcher Harvey, Elouisa Stokes, Debbie Boutilier, Ginny Holland, Devonne Ellis, Lyn Webb and Harriet Jackson. The amended SOP was sent with the October minutes.

After much discussion about moving the November meeting especially the year there is a Presidential election, Ken Cooper, Representative from Baldwin County moved that the updated SOP be accepted as presented. Ginny Holland seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all yeses. Sondra had explained the problems with finding a time which wouldn't conflict with association meetings and finding a place that could accommodate all of us if we have to move the date.

Sondra reminded us to send information we learned at this meeting out to each of our associations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Respectfully submitted

Elouisa Stokes

Advisory Council Secretary