

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting January 4, 2022



President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. John Markham led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Betsy Doucet moved to approve the minutes as posted in email. Janet Piraro seconded and the minutes of the previous two meetings were approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$32,616.78. A ledger with current expenses, income and balances was presented to the President and Secretary for filing. Mark Derise moved, with Mary McMahan second, to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was approved and the report accepted.

Keith Greenlee reported that the NE LA Master Gardeners' conference will be January 15th and will be held in West Monroe, which is a 4.5 hour drive from Lake Charles. It was decided that our club will not sponsor a trip to the conference, but individuals may go on their own.

John Markham reported that he ordered 60 LSU calendars and has sold 51 so far. He turned the money collected over to the treasurer. Anyone interested in a calendar can see John.

There was a discussion on the bylaws and a decision was made to vote on accepting the new bylaws at the next meeting. Mary McMahan suggested that the bylaws be presented to MG classes before the students become master gardeners. It was decided to discuss the matter with Mr. Turley.

Janet reported that she has not purchased the serving spoons that were discussed at the last meeting.

Rob announced that the steering committee meeting for the 2022 Garden Conference and Expo will be held on Feb 14, at 10 am. Anyone interested in helping with the expo should attend the meeting.

Linda Bienvenue announced that the donated chicken will be delivered in January. Pam Langley volunteered freezer space to store the chicken.

A discussion was held about opening a savings account since we have such a large balance in the checking account. Bryan Walker moved to open a saving account and Mary seconded. The motion was approved.

Mark reported that our cost of strawberry plants has been reduced since we have been able to root runners and produce new plants.

Mark also reported that the early sale date will be around the end of February. Volunteers are needed to plant seeds on the 7th for the plant sale at the expo. Feb. 2nd at 9am young tomato plants will be planted in pots for the early sale.

Linda B. announced that Jim Leonard from Lafayette will be at our March meeting to present info on growing Louisiana Irises.

John Markham announced that the annual Down and Dirty Conference that is hosted by the Sabine Parish Master Gardeners and held at Toledo Bend will not be held this year.

Geoffrey Bond thanked the group for all the gardening advise shared. He announced that his and Maria's garden is growing much better than it has in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Attendance:

1. Mark Derise
2. Ervin McLendon
3. Bryan Walker
4. Keith Greenlee
5. Linda Bienvenue
6. Thelma Cook
7. John J. Markham
8. Frank Conrad
9. Betsy Doucet
10. Veronica Benoit
11. Raymond Andrews
12. Patty Palmer
13. Janet Piraro
14. Rob Piraro
15. Linda Finley
16. Dianne Fruge
17. Geoffrey Bond
18. Mary McMahan
19. Jerry Byrd
20. Suzanne Abshire
21. Carolyn Miller
22. Horace Rider
23. Pam Langley