

# Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Aug 2, 2022



Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Janet Piraro led the Pledge of Allegiance

## Minutes

Keith Greenlee moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. Linda Bienvenue seconded, and the motion was approved. The minutes will stand as posted on email.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

Thelma Cook, Treasurer gave the treasurers report. We currently have a balance of \$45,778.18. The only expense we had was travel expenses for the speaker, James Burnet.

### OLD BUSINESS

**AgCenter Remodel:** The remodel of the AgCenter is still in the planning stage. The police jury is in the process of taking bids.

**Scholarship:** Linda Finley announced that Caleb Chiasson from Welsh was the top contender for the scholarship. Linda read excerpts from letters of recommendation that had high praise of the student. She also announced that one other applicant also met our requirements. Pam suggested that we give two scholarships this year since we have two qualified applicants. The treasurer announced that we did not have enough monies in the fund designated for scholarships to cover two this time.

Keith Greenlee moved that we transfer enough money to the scholarship fund to cover two scholarships. Janice Esthay seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed.

Pam Langley then moved that we offer a second scholarship to Haley Harley from Vinton this year. Keith Greenlee seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion was approved. We will give two scholarships this year.

**School Gardens:** Nola Ducote is sending a letter to Lesley from the schoolboard about MG volunteering to help with school gardens. We had a visiting teacher, Judy Guillory Reeves, from St. Margaret's, a parochial school, who requested help in starting a garden at her school. She stated that the school didn't provide for a school garden and she was responsible for supplies. She needs help with all aspects of creating a garden.

**4H:** Janet announced that the 4H day is in need of \$250 in funds and several MG to help out with the demo. A date for the 4H day has not been set.

**Fall Plant Sale:** Planting of seeds will take place next Tuesday, approximately 11 weeks before the sale.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Strawberry Plants:** Robert Turley will be selling strawberry plants. The price is \$35 for 100 plants. A discussion followed about buying plants and selling them at plant sale. It was a general consensus that with the condition of the greenhouse and the remodeling maybe taking place soon, we would not sell strawberry plants this time.

**Speakers for meetings:** Allen Owings will be the speaker at our October meeting. Janet announced that the Chalkley room at Buton Coliseum has been reserved for that day in case the AgCenter is not available. Keith Greenlee will try to get Rod Prejean to speak at our next meeting. The topic will be desert roses.

**Sprinkler system:** Janet Piraro requested that we install a sprinkler system to water the flower beds around the AgCenter. A discussion followed. Consensus was that since we do not own the building and grounds people are hired to look after the grounds, we may be overstepping by installing a sprinkler system. The discussion was tabled until a future date.

**Mulch:** Keith Greenlee suggested that we use pine straw for mulch instead of the bark mulch we have been using. The reason being that it would not wash away in heavy rains like the bark mulch does. A discussion followed and it was decided that Keith will research mulches and the prices and report back to the group.

**Adjourned:** Keith Greenlee moved and Mark Derise seconded adjournment at 10:55 am.

**Speaker:** Karen Hardy Winkles from Heaven on Earth Nursery in Moss Bluff presented a talk on landscape plants that she recommends for our area.

### **Attendance:**

Mark Derise  
Jessie Arabie  
Janet Piraro  
Rob Piraro  
Ervin McLendon  
Pam Langley  
Janice Esthay  
Linda Bienvenue  
Keith Greenlee  
Raymond Andrews  
Linda Finley  
Betsy Doucet

Dianne Fruge  
Julie Engert  
Maria Bond  
Geoffrey Bond  
Thelma Cook  
Margie Castille  
Keith Lawrence  
Patty Palmer  
Nola Ducote  
Jerry Byrd  
Veronica Benoit  
Judy Reeves (Guest)