

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Feb. 7, 2023

Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Enos Derbonne Sports Complex at 7903 Lake Street. Rob led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.



Minutes

Thelma Cook moved and Betsy Doucet seconded that reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed since minutes were distributed by email. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Cook presented a detailed treasurer report. Expenses included a first aid kit, spring scholarship, a ladder, fertilizer and tubs to be used in conjunction to plant production. The balance at the end of January 2023 was \$40,233.42. Keith Greenlee moved to approve the report and it was seconded by Mark Derise. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

LSU Calendars: Keith Greenlee suggested that we check LSU publishing for their calendar earlier in the year to support sales before the beginning of the 2024 new year. Pam Langley moved that Keith Greenlee be put in charge of that task and Keith agreed without a member vote.

AgCenter Remodel: Mark Derise announced that the ceiling and walls are done in the back part of the center. Flooring should be next.

Schools: Nola Ducote reported that seeds have been provided to the 10 schools that requested seeds.

Scholarships: Linda Finley reported that a check has been delivered to Harley Haley, our second scholarship recipient.

Spring Plant Sales: Mark Derise reported that March 4 will be the date for the early tomato plant sale. Members can stay after the plant sale to transplant seedlings for the Expo sales.

NEW BUSINESS

Garden Expo: The next Expo planning meeting was announced for Friday Feb. 10th at the 4-H conference Room in the AgCenter. Janice Esthay reminded members that donations for the silent auction are needed. Janet Piraro reminded members that they need to sign-up for working the door at the Expo. Betsy Doucet is asking for dessert items for Gumbo at Expo preview event. Bryan Walker is in charge of the wheelbarrow and Pam Langley agreed to print the raffle tickets.

Janet suggested that activities for children be provided at the Expo. Keith mentioned that the Master Naturalists have activities planned for children at their booth. It was decided that was sufficient and Master Gardeners need not provide more activities.

CobraHead Tools: Keith Greenlee moved that we discontinue selling Cobra Head tools. The motion was tabled until input from Julie Engert, chair of Cobra Head tools, is heard.

Sale of Inventory: The chipper/shredder that is taking up space in the greenhouse is no longer working. Brian Walker suggested that the club sell the chipper to free up space in the greenhouse. Mark Derise agreed to take bids until Mar. 4th. Advertising will be by word of mouth.

Rose Beds: Keith Greenlee reported that he can get pine straw for mulching the rose bed for \$800 with a \$300 charge for delivery. After much discussion, it was decided to use the mulch that is already there. Master Gardeners will help spread the mulch and will provide pine straw after mulch has been used. Raymond Andrews volunteered pine straw from his place if members collected it.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 am.

Speaker: Kelsey Richard, a vermiculture expert, presented a talk on growing earth worms and the importance of earth worm castings in gardening soil.

Attendance:

Thelma Cook
Annette DesOrmeaux
Virginia Weaver
Cynthia Robertson
Ervin McLendon
Patty Palmer
Raymond Andrews
Betsy Doucet
Linda Finley
Clare Prejean
Janice Esthay
Jerry Byrd
Dianne Fruge
Carolyn Miller
Mary McMahon
Keith Lawrence
Mark Derise
Frank Conrad
Linda Bienvenue
Janet Piraro
Rob Piraro
Len Knapp
Nola Ducote
Alisa Stevens
Gloria Byars
Pam Langley
Keith Greenlee