

# Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Mar. 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. Beth Rist, manager of the Sports Complex welcomed us and gave a brief introduction of what is available at the complex.

## Minutes

Linda Finley moved and Mark Derise 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 the treasurer report. The ending balance for the month of February was \$38,44.50. Betsy Doucet moved to approve the report and it was seconded by Janice Esthay. The motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Plant Sale:** Thelma reported that the early plant sale that was held on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> yielded a profit of \$2,379. We had a total of 3200 plants for sale and only 325 were left over. Left over plants will be sold at the Expo at the end of the month. A total of 11 schools passed by to pick up plants for their school gardens.

**Conference and Expo:** Rob reminded us that the Conference and Expo steering committee meeting will be held this coming Friday, 10 AM, at the AgCenter. Rob suggested that we try to plant tomato seeds to have more plants for sale at the Expo. We will plant cucumber seeds to have plants for sale at the Expo. Mark announced that Gumbo tickets are for sale. Keith Greenlee will be selling Gumbo tickets. Janet announced that the schedule for working the south entrance has been filled and reminded workers of our policies. Linda Bienvenue announced that the gumbo will be held from 6-8 PM and it should be ready at 5:30. Vendors will be allowed to eat early. Desserts will be needed at 1 pm. Patty asked members to sign up to work a shift in the hospitality room. Janice reminded members to bring silent auction items to the steering committee meeting on Friday.

**AgCenter Remodel:** Work has begun on the front part of the building. AgCenter employees will be moving to the back of the building.

**Schools:** Nola Ducote reported that Prien Lake Elementary has moved their planter boxes again. Lesley with the schoolboard has been helping coordinate with schools. Lenn Knapp and Julie Engert are working with Brentwood elementary and they report that the teacher there is very enthusiastic about gardening. Keith Greenlee mentioned that St. Margaret's is trying to start a garden, but we do not have any provisions for parochial schools.

**Cobra Head Tools:** Thelma mentioned that shipping has increased in cost and our profit on some tools is nearing zero. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Thelma and Julie will decide on price increases for Cobra Head Tools before the Expo.

**Field Trip:** Keith Greenlee announced that our group field trip to James Burnett's home in DeRidder will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Rose Garden:** Julie Engert reported that the rose garden is doing good.

**Compost Pile:** Mark Derise announced that he will do away with the compost pile on the southwest corner outside the greenhouse by using his tractor to spread the compost around the area.

**Wish List:** Linda Bienvenue moved that the club purchase a power washer to help clean greenhouse floors. The motion was tabled until later. Patty Palmer suggested that he club establish a wish list of things that the club would like to purchase of accomplish for the future. Again the idea was postponed until a later date.

**Fall Sale:** Mark announced that we currently have all the seeds and pots needed for our fall plant sale. The only essential item needed is soil.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Planting:** Mark announced that we will plant seedlings in pots this Wednesday or Thursday. Rob will send out an email with the details.

**Signs:** Lenn Knapp has new Expo signs that members can pick up, but reminded everyone that the signs should not be put out until the week of the Expo.

**Other MG News** Julie Engert announced that she and Sue Burke attended the Sabine MG Conference. It was an enjoyable and informative meeting. They met a fellow MG member, Grant Beal, from Deridder who was interested in helping out with our Expo. She invited him to the Steering Committee meeting on Friday and asked that he be included in our email group.

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

### **Attendance:**

Mark Derise	Veronica Benoit
Annette DesOrmeaux	Mary McMahan
Janice Esthay	Gloria Byars
Linda Bienvenue	Leonard Knapp, Jr.
Thelma Cook	Carolyn Miller
Pam Langley	Dianne Fruge
Jerry Byrd	Nola Ducote
Raymond Andrews	Keith Lawrence
Patty Palmer	Geoffery Bond
Betsy Doucet	
Julie Engert	
Cynthia Robertson	
Frank Conrad	
Linda Finley	
Keith Greenlee	
Clare Prejean	
Janet Piraro	
Rob Piraro	