

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Apr. 4, 2023

Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. at the Enos Derbonne Sports Complex at 7903 Lake Street. Mark led the Pledge of Alligence to the Flag.



Minutes

Linda Finley moved, and Patty Palmer seconded, that reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed since minutes were distributed by email. An error in the minutes concerning the bank balance was corrected and the minutes were approved as corrected.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Cook presented the treasurer report. Our balance is currently \$67,637.03, but no expenses from the Garden Conference and Expo have been paid. Jesse Arabie moved to approve the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Betsy Doucet. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Conference and Expo: Rob thanked everyone who worked at the Expo. Linda Bienvenue wrote a report as chair of the Gumbo Supper. Linda was not present, so Keith Greenlee read her report. We had some leftovers that had to be thrown out. Some leftovers were saved for our meeting, and some were sent to the hospitality room for consumption the next day. She thanked everyone who helped, especially Jessie and crew who cooked a wonderful gumbo. She called for more help in putting on the event next year to help things run more smoothly. Thelma reported that we collected \$3037 from our wheelbarrow raffle with the proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Thelma also reported intake at the north (N) and south (S) doors at the expo: Friday: \$1379 N, \$4158 S. Saturday: \$785 N, \$6665 S.

AgCenter Remodel: Work has been delayed since water entered the building during the last heavy rain. Water entered the building on the east side and carpet from some offices is being removed. No one is sure how long this will delay the completion of the remodel.

Schools: Nola Ducote reported that Prien Lake Elementary now has soil and plants. All plants survived our late freeze. Lenn Knapp helped Brentwood plant their garden last Thursday.

Compost Pile Removal: Mark reported that it has not been dry enough to get the tractor in the side yard of the AgCenter to remove the compost pile.

Field Trip: Keith Greenlee announced that our group field trip to James Burnett's home in DeRidder will be on April 18th. Mr. Burnett has requested no children, no wheelchairs, and no walkers. There will a porta-potty available on the site. Members should arrive by 9:30 am and the tour should take 1.5 hours.

NEW BUSINESS

Allotted Funds: Mark made a motion to designate monies for our special funds to be used throughout the year. He moved that \$1000 be allotted to each of the following: schools, scholarships, Beauregard Master Gardeners, and that \$500 be allotted to landscaping at the AgCenter. The motion was seconded by Patty Palmer. After some discussion a vote was called. The motion passed by a large majority.

MG Proposed Guidelines: Rob then presented proposed guidelines that were previously emailed to the group. There was a very lively discussion on the topic. Julie Engert called for a vote on the adoption of the guidelines and Pam Langley seconded the motion. The motion failed.

New Pots: Janet Piraro moved, and Pam Langley seconded, to allow up to \$500 to buy new pots for the patio area of the AgCenter to replace the aging pots that are there. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Watering System: Patty Palmer moved that we purchase a watering system for the flower beds at the AgCenter. After much discussion the motion was rescinded. Pam Langley then moved that a committee be appointed to investigate the details of current watering system, purchasing a new system, and the Police Jury's position on us putting in a watering system. Patty seconded the motion and a vote was taken; the vote passed. Patty Palmer, Betsy Doucet, Carolyn Miller, and Mark Derise volunteered to serve on the committee.

Pressure Washer: Patty Palmer made a motion to purchase a heavy-duty electric pressure washer to help with the cleaning of the greenhouse floor. Pam seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Cobra Head Tools: Julie Engert reported that all cobra head tools in inventory were sold at the Expo. She now has a wait list with 8 people wanting cobra head tools. Julie made the motion to purchase enough cobra head inventory to cover the wait list and have some left over for future sales. Jessie Arabie seconded the motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed.

Other MG News: Linda Finley introduced a new member who transferred from the Beauregard Master Gardeners. Gyneth Simmons is now a member of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners.

Announcement: Clare Prejean announced that L.J. from Cajun Native Plants of Abbeville will be the speaker at our May meeting.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Attendance:

Linda Finley	Betsy Doucet
Keith Greenlee	Patty Palmer
Thelma Cook	Nola Ducote
Mary McMahan	Barbara Watkins
Cynthia Robertson	Julie Engert
Janet Piraro	Carolyn Miller
Rob Piraro	Raymond Andrews
Frank Conrad	Clare Prejean
Jessie Arabie	Gloria Byars
Gyneth Simmons	Keith Lawrence
Virginia Weaver	Alisa Stevens
Jerry Byrd	Pam Langley