

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting May 2, 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

Betsy Doucet moved, and Clare Prejean seconded, that reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed since minutes were distributed by email.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Cook presented the treasurer report. Expenses for this past month include: An order of Cobra Head tools to restock our inventory, expenses for the 2023 Garden Expo including \$2,550 to police jury for lunches on Friday and Saturday, 2/3 of door proceeds (\$8,6589) to Mr. Turley, and \$1000 to Beauregard Master Gardeners for providing workers. We also had expenses of building materials to re-build the greenhouse tables. Our ending balance at the end of April was \$50,558.88. Mark Derise moved to approve the Treasurers report and Jessie Arabie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Thelma reminded members that to be reimbursed for fuel to go on the field trip, you need to turn in a ticket for the gas.

OLD BUSINESS

Greenhouse Table Construction: Mark reported that all replacement tables have been constructed, but a few additional tables will be constructed to fill space in the back of the greenhouse. All need to be sealed. Tuesday workday will be reserved for working on tables.

AgCenter Remodel: Work has been started on the front of the building. The main office has been temporarily moved to the Jackson Swoop room.

Schools: Nola Ducote reported that she gave talks on pollinators to area schools. She has also received photos from area teachers showing students working on the school gardens. Julie went to Brentwood this week and found that they are conducting Leap Test this week and that will probably last for another week. Mark reported that Dolby picked green beans last week.

Compost Pile Removal: Mark reported that it is still too wet to get the tractor in the side yard of the AgCenter to remove the compost pile.

New Pots for Patio area: Mark reported that an arbor and two pots were purchased for the patio area. The subject of purchasing more pots was discussed and the issue was tabled until next meeting.

Watering System: Mark reported that he received an estimate of \$13,070.10 to install a watering system at the AgCenter. He passed this estimate on to Jimmy Pitre, AgCenter Manager, to talk to the Police Jury, building owner, about the matter.

Pressure Washer: Mark reported that an electric pressure washer will cost \$500, but he is not convinced that it will do the job as needed. He will continue to investigate choosing a pressure washer.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Planting: Mark announced that we have all supplies that are needed for the fall planting. He also reported that the price of the soil we use has risen from \$45 a bag to \$55 a bag, so future expenses will increase.

New MG Class: Robert Turley announced that the next Master Gardener class will start on June 20. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 pm. There are currently 2 paid applicants.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Program: L.J. Delcambre of Cajun Native Plants in Abbeville talked on propagation of native plants.

Attendance:

Jessie Arabie
Gyneth Simmons
Veronica Benoit
Pam Langley
Linda Bienvenue
Linda Finley
Janet Piraro
Gloria Byars
Mark Derise
Cynthia Robertson
Frank Conrad
Nola Ducote
Rob Piraro
Patty Palmer
Mary McMahan
Betsy Doucet
Raymond Andrews
Jerry Byrd
Clare Prejean
Julie Engert
Carolyn Miller
Margie Castille
Dianne Fruge
Geoffry Bond
Robert Turley