

Minutes of the Southwest Louisiana Master Gardeners' Monthly Meeting Sept. 5, 2023

Master Gardener President Rob Piraro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the LSU Lake Charles AgCenter on Gulf Hwy. Keith Greenlee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.



Minutes

Keith moved, and Linda Bienvenue seconded, that we dispense of reading the minutes since minutes were distributed earlier to the group by email. The motion passed.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Thelma Cook reported that the current balance is \$45,803. The main expenses for this past month included \$1000 to our scholarship winner, \$364.65 for greenhouse water system parts, and \$227.92 to Harris Seeds. It was moved by Betsy Doucet and seconded by Mark Derise that the treasurers report be approved. The motion carried.

Membership: New members were welcomed to the meeting. New members present were:

Cindy Ottenweller
Sam Istre
Alice O'Keefe
Sabrina Beaty
Roger Newman

OLD BUSINESS

Scholarships: Linda Finley announced our new scholarship recipient is Chelsey Coleman. Chelsey is majoring in Animal Science and wants to become a veterinarian. Linda also reviewed the scholarship requirements for our new members.

Schools: Nola Ducote reported that the heat is thwarting gardening activities at the schools. Julie Engert reported that Brentwood school got soil over the summer and Rob announced that we will be planting extra plants along with our fall sale plants with the intention of supplying schools with veggie plants to plant this fall.

Compost Pile Removal: The compost pile has been removed.

Greenhouse Maintenance: Mark Derise reported that a new watering system for the greenhouse has been purchased and installed. Additional tables have been added along the back wall of the greenhouse. Some minor repairs to the greenhouse have also been done. The shade cloth has been placed over the greenhouse roof.

Fall Plants: Next Tuesday will be the day for transplanting into 4" pots. Helpers were asked to get to the greenhouse early, to beat the heat.

NEW BUSINESS

Strawberry Plants: Mark announced that strawberry plants will be arriving around the middle of October. There are 8000 plants arriving and they will need to be separated into smaller bundles to fill orders. Members will be asked to help out.

Beauregard Fair: Keith reminded members that Master Gardeners are asked to Judge agriculture entries at the Beauregard Parish fair. Judging will take place on the first Tuesday of October. Volunteers included Nola Ducote, Raymond Andrews, Keith Greenlee, Thelma Cook, Mark Derise, and Mary McMahan.

Caroline Dorman Iris Garden: Pam Langley made the motion that the club make a \$250 donation to Briarwood for Caroline Dorman's Iris Garden maintenance. Janet Piraro seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tours: Veronica Benoit reported that she has been asked by friends if a group of people could come and tour the grounds and the greenhouse. There were no objections, and Rob agreed that it would be fine for visitors to tour the grounds.

Front Entrance: Janet Piraro reported that we were asked to keep up the flower beds on either side of the front entrance to the AgCenter. She wants to do it in pots to make it easier to plant and thinks three pots on each side will be sufficient. She made the motion to allocate up to \$1000 to pay for the pots, and it was seconded by Janice Esthay. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

Speaker: Andrew Tingler from the Sabine Pass Lighthouse Preservation Alliance, spoke on the progress on repairing the lighthouse. He also spoke on his project of raising cut flowers and selling them at the farmers market to raise money for the lighthouse.

Attendance:

1. Annette DesOrmeaux
2. Cynthia Robertson
3. Linda Finley
4. Janice Esthay
5. Keith Greenlee
6. Betsy Doucet
7. Patty Palmer
8. Virginia Weaver
9. Nola Ducote
10. Mary McMahan
11. Raymond Andrews
12. Veronica Benoit
13. Rob Piraro
14. Janet Piraro
15. Sabrina Beaty
16. Sam Istre
17. Alice O'Keefe
18. Thelma Cook
19. Jessie Arabie
20. Mark Derise
21. Marie Bond
22. Jerry Byrd
23. Cindy Ottenweller
24. Carolyn Miller
25. Harriet Green
26. Linda Bienvenue
27. Pam Langley