

Sugar Land Garden Club Minutes
Board Meeting
January 14, 2025

Members in attendance were: Linda Barbone, Deborah Birge, Gretchen Cockerill, Melody Lindley, Richard Luliano, Lynette McQueen, Leslie Niemand, Karen Putney, Robin Rettew, Linda Rhodes, Donna Romaine, Carrie Sample, Cindy Smith, Sandy Smith, Jaye Talus, Brenda Webb, Carol Wilson, Alice Zothner, and Betty Baber.

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Birge at 9:59 A.M. The meeting was held at the home of Robin Rettew with Deborah Birge and Donna Romaine as co-hostesses.

Secretary – Betty Baber: The minutes were presented and approved by acclamation.

Treasurer – Linda Barbone: Income of \$303 but not much activity since last report. Requested that all receipts, including plant swap receipts, be submitted. The report was accepted for filing and review at end of year.

First Vice President Programs – Melody Lindley: Speaker for the next meeting is Deborah January-Bevers speaking on the Monarch Migration and the Texas Monarch Flyway Strategy. Speaker for February is Chris Wiesinger, from Southern Bulb Company. He will be bringing bulbs

Second Vice President Data Base – Karen Putney: Four new members have been added bringing membership to 146 matching what we had last year. Karen will contact new members to give them the “members only” password. There are a few Directories still available so there is no need to reorder at this time.

Second Vice President Door Prizes – Gay Chavez: Door prizes are progressing nicely. She has received a load of plants to be used as door prizes.

Second Vice President Blast – Sandy Smith: Currently discussing plans for the new member event to be held in February/March time frame.

Committee Reports:

Arbor Day – Leslie Niemand: The 2 donated possum hollies were planted in November at Cullinan Park in the Bird Viewing Area. She provided directions to their location. She also advised, in response to questions, that there is no designation signage for the trees as the Park management does not allow this.

Corresponding Secretary – Jaye Talus: Cards went out to Patti Lawlor, Anna Sands, Sharon Shafer, and Jo Beth Moore. She advised that Jo Beth’s husband, Warren, had passed in November. Deborah requested that in such events, the board be notified to enable the club to do something and allow those who wished to send cards or attend the funeral have that option. There was also a reminder that donations can be made in memoriam in such instances. There will be an “In Memoriam” listing in next year’s yearbook, as has been done in previous situations.

Equipment – Richard Luliano: Advised that he is ready for the next meeting. Deborah Birge donated a new clicker to replace the current one. There was some discussion about the possible need to update the current operating system in use. This will be considered at some future date.

Field Trips – Alice Zothner: Had 2 tables for the luncheon at Brookwood. Currently, have 12 members signed up to go to the Cochrell Butterfly center with lunch to follow at Cleburne’s Cafeteria. Alice would like to suggest that no field trips be planned for September thru February as the weather frequently causes cancellations and there are fewer options for such trips. Maybe have fewer trips and have at least one overnight-type trip in place of some to the monthly trips.

Deborah suggested that Alice and her “committee” – silent partner, Karen Putney, review this option and present their results/conclusions next year to the board.

Fundraisers:

Bulb Sale – Denise Harper (absent): Deborah advised that the next bulb sale meetings start in March.

Silent Auction – Carrie Sample: Now is the time to start planning and gathering what you want to donate. Remember, it should not be “junk”. Karen suggested to approach it as items that you might want to purchase for your children or grandchildren, not necessarily for other club members to purchase for themselves. Carrie did suggest that potted plants go very well. Reminder the silent auction is March 18.

Habitat for Humanity – Linda Rhodes: Stephanie’s report included 3 items that were being asked of SLGC.

- 1) Design for yard – understanding that this was supposed to go to Master Gardeners, not SLGC; SLGC does not make requests to or of the Master Gardener Program
- 2) Help with planting to include landscape planting and sod; question raised as to whether this means for SLGC to provide labor for these activities
- 3) Provide 3” live oak tree (estimated cost of \$300) for each house

Stephanie also requested that the board approve the purchase of a lawnmower and miscellaneous garden tools; estimated cost of lawnmower was \$250 - \$300.

A lot of discussion ensued seeking more details about these requests, the feasibility of these requests; what is budgeted vs. what is requested; purpose of SLGC (education) vs. what is being requested (providing plants, tools and labor).

Carrie Sample made a motion to provide the same items as has been done in the past which includes a bucket of tools and hose. Motion was seconded.

Discussions and questions continued. Carrie called for a vote on her motion.

Motion Restated:

All those in favor of keeping the budget at \$200 and that amount to go toward the purchase of a bucket of tools and a hose for donation to each of the Habitat houses.

Ayes – 17

Nays - 2

Motion carried.

Hospitality – Brenda Webb: Everything is going well.

Master Gardener Representative – Leslie Niemand: Fruit tree sale is February 15 at the Fairgrounds. The educational programs for 2025 have begun. This includes Landscape for Success classes which are online. Two coming up are Growing a Great Lawn on January 24 and Landscape Basics February 20. Also, the Grow Your Own classes are in person at the location on Band Road. The 1st class has passed; February 1 is fruit trees. There is no cost but you must go online and register in advance. The vegetable and herb sale is scheduled for March 8.

Newsletter – Cindy Smith: Looking for any articles/items of interest to include in the newsletter.

Plant Swap – Donna Romaine/Debe Fannin: Not much available for the plant swap table this time of year.

Scrapbook – Carrie Sample: Looking for pictures of the flowers resulting from bulbs purchased. When submitting pictures of events, please make the pictures of people, not just scenery. Send them via email, not text.

Social – Lynette McQueen: Had 80 people for the luncheon which is a record. The cost was supposed to be \$31.00 but the Country Club only charged \$30 so she will be verifying the amount for the next social. Sold \$510 worth of raffle tickets with \$207 of expenses; netting an amount of \$302.90. She has already accumulated almost everything for the Spring luncheon. Had a lot of people utilizing Zelle this time.

Sponsorships – Cindy Smith: Nothing to report.

Workshops – Carol Wilson: Had 11 people purchase kit for Snowflake with only 8 people attending. Next workshop is February 4 and the item to be made is an Allium utilizing screws. Cost is \$15.00

Yearbook/Directory – Robin Rettew: Send in pictures of flowers for the yearbook cover.

Old Business: None

New Business: Two items:

- 1) Nominating Committee (composed of 5 members, 3 from the board) needs to be formed to nominate officers for the following positions: President; First Vice President, Second Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian. Carrie Sample, Karen Putney and Carol Wilson volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee.
- 2) Our Facebook page is public and anything to be posted has to be sent to and posted by Carrie Dolezal. We can create a private Facebook page for members only. It would be necessary to have 3 to 4 admins to monitor the site to admit new qualifying members, remove members who do not renew, any other issues that arise. Lynette McQueen, Linda Rhodes, Alice Zothner, and Deborah Birge volunteered to be Admins. These four will set up rules/guidelines and have everything ready by the end of March or first of April.

Next board meeting date February 11, 2025 at Gay Chavez' house with Sandy Smith co-hosting.

Carrie Sample made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A. M.

Betty Baber, Secretary

Date: _____

Deborah Birge, President

Date: _____