

Sugar Land Garden Club Minutes  
Board Meeting  
February 11, 2025

**Members in attendance were:** Linda Barbone, Deborah Birge, Gay Chavez, Denise Harper, Karen Putney, Linda Rhodes, Donna Romaine, Carrie Sample, Cindy Smith, Sandy Smith, Jaye Talus, Brenda Webb, Beverly Willilams, Carol Wilson, Alice Zothner, and Betty Baber.

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Birge at 9:58 A.M. The meeting was held at the home of Gay Chavez with Sandy Smith as co-hostess.

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

**Treasurer – Linda Barbone:** Deborah advised all officers and chairs to review their budget item as it is getting close to the end of the budget year and if any committee needs to request an increase in the budget, they should be getting prepared. The report was accepted for filing and review at end of year.

**First Vice President Programs – Melody Lindley (absent):** Speaker for the next meeting is Chris Wiesinger, from Southern Bulb Company. He will be bringing bulbs available for purchase to the meeting. A blast will be sent out listing the bulbs and prices. Deborah has requested the tables he will need to set up his merchandise.

**Second Vice President Data Base – Karen Putney:** Two new members for a total of 148; have no information for one of those new members (Diane Todd). Two members overpaid (\$35 rather than \$25) and one person has not paid. Some discussion about how these new members are “finding” us. Reasons include the damage done by the freeze; people seeing the workshops at the Senior Center and asking questions. Karen suggested providing Carol Wilson some membership forms to have handy when people ask about the workshops.

**Second Vice President Door Prizes – Gay Chavez:** Arlene Harbin has donated 7 arrangements of different plants to be used as door prizes.

**Second Vice President Blast – Sandy Smith:** Will be sending out a blast regarding the new members meeting which is scheduled for 1:00 PM, Wednesday, March 5 at Karen Putney’s house.

**Committee Reports:**

**Brookwood – Beverly Williams:** Next volunteer day is Thursday, April 3. There will be sign-up sheets at the next two meetings.

**Corresponding Secretary – Jaye Talus:** No cards were sent out. She will be sending condolences to the Coopers since the death of our member, Ursula Cooper. Deborah requested that Jaye send Terri Hurley a get well card.

**Field Trips – Alice Zothner:** Six made the trip to the Cockrell Butterfly Center. Next trip is scheduled for February 25 to Fred Reyes nursery in Simonton with lunch at Pier 36. Participants will meet at the HEB at 69 and 762.

**Fundraisers:**

**Bulb Sale – Denise Harper:** Next bulb sale is still in the planning stages. Also suggested members may want to access Chris’ website to see what bulbs he may be offering.

**Silent Auction – Carrie Sample:** Reminder to be on the lookout for items for the silent auction.

**Habitat for Humanity – Linda Rhodes:** No significant changes since last meeting. Asked if blast had gone out to members requesting donations of plants/plant cuttings and it had not due to several issues. Announcement will go in Newsletters and Deborah suggested Linda make an announcement at the February meeting.

**Hospitality – Brenda Webb:** Everything is going well.

**Master Gardener Representative – Leslie Niemand (absent):** Deborah reported that the fruit tree sale is 9 -12, Saturday, February 15 at the Fairgrounds. The educational program (Landscape for Success) classes are online from 1:00 to 2:30 on designated days. There is no cost but you must go online (FBMG) to register in advance and you will be sent a link. Landscape Basics is coming up February 20. Grow Your Own classes are in person at the location on Band Road from 9:00 to 10:30. The next class is raised beds and planters on Saturday, February 28. You must also register online for these classes.

**Newsletter – Cindy Smith:** Nothing to report.

**Plant Swap – Donna Romaine/Debe Fannin:** Asked for a show of hands of who would be bringing plants and reminded everyone that other items, such as pots, tools or other garden related items are welcome.

**Publicity – Laura Cairns (absent):** In Laura's absence, Deborah passed on the news that responses about next week's meeting indicates there may be a larger than normal attendance. Karen Putney also advised that she has a friend on the Fort Bend Star which interviews local organizations/people for Fort Bend Friends regarding scholarship donations and other such newsworthy articles. Karen suggested that Deborah could be interviewed to discuss what the club does and the scholarships it donates. Deborah agreed and Karen will pursue this.

**Scrapbook – Carrie Sample:** Seeking pictures of people's gardens during the recent snow.

**Social – Lynette McQueen:** Everything is fine.

**Sponsorships – Cindy Smith:** Nothing to report.

**Website – Terri Hurley (absent):** In her absence, Deborah gave her report. In the past 30 days, there has been a significant increase in visitors (165 which is a 42% increase). There have been 431 "views," an increase of 34%. Traffic seems to be coming from search engines, Google, Yahoo and Duck Duck Go and thru visitors to our Facebook page. Deborah had a breakdown of pages/articles visited. The blog has not received much traffic so Terri plans on increasing the frequency of blogs and add a button where visitors can sign up to be notified when a new blog is published. She would like to add articles from the newsletter as they are very informative and interesting. Terri requested approval by the board for this action. She would also have to obtain the permission of the writers/contributors of those articles she uses for the blog. Board agreed.

**Workshops – Carol Wilson:** Last workshop had 5 attendees making 9 alliums. Next meeting is March 4 and the project is decoupage Easter eggs at a cost of \$15 to be led by Deborah Birge. Carol would also like permission/agreement to reduce number of workshops from 7 to 6 and suggested the May workshop be eliminated due to all the activities already scheduled in May and the expense and time required to prepare for so many workshops. Deborah asked if the club was still participating with Barbara and the "prom project" which just involved facilitating a sign-up sheet. Carol advised she could/would continue with that function. Board members agreed with reducing number of workshops as requested. Carrie also advised that she's had requests to bring back Michelle who makes Christmas trees out of old jewelry. The cost is \$40-\$45 which includes all supplies provided by Michelle. Carol will check it out as a possible November workshop next year which would replace the following January workshop.

**Yearbook/Directory – Robin Rettew:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

Deborah reminded everyone that the Nominating Committee still needs two members which must come from the general member population. Current members are Karen Putney, Carrie Sample and Carol Wilson. Due to the cancellation of the January meeting, there was no opportunity to seek the needed two volunteers. Deborah and current nominating committee members will be seeking the two additional members needed. Carrie Sample is chair of this committee which will be reporting at the March Board meeting.

Deborah advised that the members only page is up. Currently, only board members will be able to join by searching for the page and asking to join. The join request will be reviewed by an admin (currently Lynette McQueen, Alice Zothner, Linda Rhodes, Deborah Birge). Deborah requested members to access the page to post and make comments to help discover any possible kinks to be resolved. There is a good possibility that the name may be changed due to the volume of SLGC pages already on Facebook. Once the testing is over, it will be opened to all members.

**New Business:** None

Next board meeting date March 11, 2025 at Beverly Williams' house with Denise Harper co-hosting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A. M.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Betty Baber, Secretary

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deborah Birge, President