

Sugar Land Garden Club Minutes  
Board Meeting  
June 10, 2025

**Members in attendance were:** Mary Allen, Betty Baber, Linda Barbone, Deborah Birge, Laura Cairns, Gay Chavez, Donna-Jean Dyer, Sharon Harry, Lynette McQueen, Leslie Niemand, Karen Putney, Robin Rettew, Linda Rhodes, Donna Romaine, Carrie Sample, Melissa Schmidt, Sandy Smith, Jaye Talus, Beverly Williams, and Alice Zothner, for a total number of 20.

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Birge at 10:00 A.M. The meeting was held at the home of Donna-Jean Dyer with Jaye Talus as co-hostess.

**Past Secretary – Betty Baber:** The minutes were presented. Motion made by Carrie Sample to accept minutes as presented; motion carried.

**Treasurer – Linda Barbone:** The end of year forecast was \$16K. Revenue is reported as \$13,400. The club broke even for the year ending May 31, 2025. Proposed budget for the new year is \$16K. The budget is based on an estimated membership of 100 members, and a fundraiser total of \$5,500. Budgets for Arbor Day and Habitat for Humanity were increased. All other committee budgets remained the same. No questions were raised regarding the final report. Robin Rettew made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Carrie Sample. Motion carried.

**First Vice President Programs – Melody Lindley:** Melody was not in attendance. Deborah Birge mentioned the year's speakers are planned out.

**Second Vice President Data Base – Melissa Schmidt:** As of this date, 116 members have renewed. 7 new members to date. 20 current members are pending. 13 members elected to not renew. Melissa's goal is to finalize the membership by the end of next week. Robin Rettew mentioned she would like to receive the directory information by July 1. Melissa will also send a copy to Deborah Birge.

**Second Vice President Name Tags/Door Prizes – Gay Chavez:** Gay has a few donations left over from last year's inventory. She plans to buy more plants this year.

**Second Vice President Emails -- Sandy Smith:** Sandy mentioned the new member get together is planned for Tuesday, September 30 at La Madelaine in Sugar Land. The private room holds 10 people and food will be purchased.

**Committee Reports:**

**Arbor Day – Leslie Niemand:** Leslie is looking for an organization to accept donations, find a location, then will work with the group to determine the type of tree to purchase. Leslie mentioned that last year the Master Naturalists have a wholesale contact. Deborah mentioned the garden club can purchase wholesale from TreeSearch. Texas Arbor Day is in October. However, it is suggested the tree be planted in November since it is too hot in October.

**Corresponding Secretary – Jaye Talus:** A card was sent to Anna Sands as her daughter is very ill. Deborah asked Jaye to send a get well card to Carol Wilson who has hurt her back.

**Equipment (absent):** No report.

**Facebook – Carrie Dolezal/Terri Hurley (both absent):** No report.

**Field Trips – Carrie Sample:** The first field trip will be October 7<sup>th</sup> to Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Tx for the scarecrow exhibit. Plans are to rent 3 7-person vans for \$18 per person. Person count will be needed by the September meeting for van rental. Deborah asked if the \$18 cost includes gas and if the cost should be rounded up to \$20.

There will not be a November field trip as the date is too close to Thanksgiving.

The January field trip will be to the Fort Bend Museum.

The February field trip will be to La Grange to tour the Texas Quilt Museum and the Grandmothers Garden.

The March field trip is an overnight San Antonio trip. Deborah Birge and Robin Rettew will co-chair.

April is the SLGC member's garden tour. The plan is to meet at Carrabba's and carpool to each garden.

#### **Fundraisers:**

**Bulb Sale – Mary Allen:** Four amaryllis bulbs have been selected, along with curcumin, and freesia. October 25 pickup at St. Basil's parking lot. All plants are under \$20. Deborah mentioned the curcumin is being cared for at her home and can be picked up by making arrangements with Deborah.

**Silent Auction – Donna-Jean Dyer:** No report

**Habitat for Humanity -- Stephanie Flatt:** No report.

**Hospitality—Linda Rhodes/Betty Baber:** Linda asked for the membership list by hospitality month by June 16<sup>th</sup>. Brenda Webb will instruct Linda and Betty how to process the file in preparation for the directory deadline. Supplies are in good shape.

**Master Gardener Representative – Leslie Niemand:** Kids Camp is full for July. Free Class registration online for 1) Grow Your Own, 2) Landscape Success, and 3) June 14<sup>th</sup> Composting.

**Newsletter – Denise Harper (absent):** Send articles, cartoons, recipes, etc. to Denise.

**Plant Swap – Donna Romaine:** The June plant swap was a great success, attended by 41 members. 10 door prizes were handed out.

**Publicity – Laura Cairns:** No report.

**Scholarships – Donna-Jean Dyer:** No report.

**Scrapbook – Deborah Birge:** Deborah asked a number of members to consider the scrapbook position. No volunteers were found. Therefore, Deborah will accept the scrapbook project for this year. A brief discussion was held to determine if the scrapbook was of continuing value to the club. For historical reasons, it was decided to continue publishing the scrapbook and to bring several past scrapbooks to each general meeting for membership review.

**Social – Sharon Harry:** Comments regarding the May social were very positive, stating the lunch was very good and the event was well received. The May social hosted 61 attendees. The raffle netted \$291. Riverbend has sent 2 luncheon contracts for approval.

**Sponsorships—Robin Rettew:** Robin mentioned a business card size ad is \$35 and can be used to highlight anything (anniversary, family event, etc.). Sponsorships are down from last year as businesses are closing, owners retiring. Robin is coordinating the sponsorship requests with Cindy Smith.

**Website – Terry Hurley (absent):** Terry sent her report to Deborah. Web traffic decreased from the past month. 164 visitors logged on to the website, a decrease of 20%. Garden articles are needed for the blog. Deborah mentioned the members-only password will be changed soon. Access to the club minutes and financial review will be added.

**Workshops – Carol Wilson/Gretchen Cockerill:** Carol sent her report to Deborah. Carol asked that the May minutes be corrected to reflect there is no workshop in January. The February workshop will be on tools maintenance. Carol received the T.E. Harman contract.

**Yearbook/Directory – Robin Rettew:** July 1 is the deadline to submit items/information for the Directory. To save money, the by-laws section of 9 pages will be removed from the directory. At this time, the club is low on sponsors, thus cost cutting is needed. For those who need to view the by-laws, they are posted on the website and old SLGC directories can be referenced. The Parliamentarian will have the by-laws available at the board meetings.

**Old Business:**

Financial Review will be in late June or July.

**New Business:** No new business.

The next meeting is September 9th with Deborah Birge as hostess and Robin Rettew as co-hostess.

Carrie Sample made a motion to adjourn; meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

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Date:

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Karen Putney, Secretary

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Deborah Birge, President

Date: