

LPMGA General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday September 7, 2022  
Southside Library

Our September meeting was called to order at 12:03. Juan Nieto led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary Gladney introduced Mark Hernandez as our speaker. Mark founded Farmers and Artisans Market at the Horse Farm about 10 years ago. He has been grounds manager of the 100 acre space currently know as Moncus Park since 2019. Mark said the park is now a nonprofit conservany which is continuing to make improvements. Abbie Judice was introduced and has joined the Moncus Park team to assist Mark. Currently, invasive plant species are being identified and removed. There are wildflower and iris beds as well as a stocked pond for catch and release. A cajun prarie restoration project has begun. Mark is hoping for MG involvement in the area of environmental education and garden talks.

Juan asked for a motion to approve the August General meeting minutes. Motion was made and approved. Juan elaborated on our involvement with Moncus Park. He has met with Mark and his committee during the summer and let them know that our purpose is education. So we have agreed to some evening garden talks in the months of September, October, and November. Talks will resume in the spring. The first talk (fall gardening) is by Ed Wilhelm on September 15 at 5:30. Our Speakers Bureau is the place to register for a talk. This keeps our speakers from being overused. Juan says we will also have an Ask A MG table set up the first Saturday of every month at the park. Juan said you may contact Mazie Movassaghi if you wish to be on a committee for Moncus Park.

Our appointed acting past president Heather Finley explained the three year process of moving from vice president (first year) to president (second year) and finally to Immediate past president (third year). We need nominations for vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and member-at-large to fill board positions for the upcoming year. Nominations for Outstanding Master Gardener are due in by October 1. Nominating forms are on our website. Heather urges us to give careful consideration to involved members who may be nomination worthy.

The final member of the nominating board was selected by a show of hands from active MG members. Babette Werner completes the committee. Other members are Heather, Mary Gladney, and Marsha Bayer.

Our treasurer Angela Moles gave us our financial report. Our checking balance jumped from 28 to 32K after deposits were made. Our CD stands at 16K, and our investment account is at 90K. All numbers have been rounded.

Several members from last year's class have completed their forty hours. Angela passed out a certificate and name tag to Greg Halbourt. Kathy similarly recognized

Susan Durio, And Marsha Bayer recognized Kevin Besse. Congratulations to these master gardeners for their dedication and hard work.

Maddox Miller, LSU Ag Rep, stated that those working in school gardens will have to be fingerprinted through the school system. Charles will email a form to those members. The LMG Appreciation Day in Hammond (September 16) is from 9-2 with registration beginning at 8:30. Linda Beyt, co-chairman of the school gardens, said there is still room for people to help.

Cindy Wiley said Beth Mouton has shown great improvement and is set to go home. Ellen Grote had knee surgery, and Ellen Garacci is disappointed that improvement isn't coming sooner.

Regarding Plantfest, Kathryn Landgrave is still looking for volunteers for this event. Also, yard signs are available. Please set signs out on September 18.

Lynn Hair is conducting a plant swap on September 17 from 9-11. Anyone can participate - you don't have to be a MG. Lynn also won the white verbena door prize.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:27.

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting: September 20 at Ira Nelson Library, 1 PM

Next General Meeting: October 5 at Southside Library, noon. A program will be put together by the board in recognition of some hard-working master gardeners.

Minutes Submitted by Kathy Troyanowski