

Meeting Minutes

- Attendees:
 - Rudy Martinez- President
 - Matt Bloebaum- Past President
 - Denise Goehring- Treasurer
 - John Clements
 - Rochella Cooper
 - Isabel Sigala
 - Barb Garvin
 - Vicki Bailey
 - Jack Chism
 - Dan Schwieterman
 - Sylvia McCormack
 - Carol Ann LeClair
 - Dixie Friend
 - John Gardner from Buchanan's Nursery
- Meeting location: 1906 W. 14th Street

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

- Welcome new neighbor Isabel!
- **Guest Speaker: John Gardner from Buchanan's Nursery**
 - Why use native plants? Natural part of the ecosystem: need less water; stay healthy in our soil; creates native habitat; local fauna and flora work together - insects are used to these species; don't need as much insecticides so it is better for the natural fauna; hummingbirds and butterflies can be attracted with native plants as these species are native as well.
 - In an urban environment, soil is often not native, brought in by contractors. You have to add in organic matter to revive microbial life.
 - Need to adapt soils if you choose natives from other parts of Texas - consider how much sand is needed, and how much rain plants are used to.
 - Provided extensive list of native plants and trees to consider.
 - Prepare for future drought conditions by planning raised planters with proper soil preparation.
 - You can even consider planning an "English Garden" type design, but using our natives.
 - Also provided a flyer for Garden Coaching services
- **Question/Answer:**
 - How do we combat leaf curling problems: caused by larvae; does not hurt tree or fruit production; hard to get rid of; spray with "Captain Jack" products for example or with Neem Oil weekly; best to alternate weekly between the two treatments. Cannot use the Neem Oil when the temperature reaches 90 degrees.
 - How to get more blooms on citrus trees: the only approach to improve is light quarterly fertilization and very balanced watering. Citrus tree fruit production varies year to year and is affected by many factors. A balanced fertilizer is Micro-Life. Cotton seed is good source of nitrogen, but not much more. Need a fertilizer that has good diversity of microbes. Also using local compost.

- How do we get rid of pests on lilies: BT spray or unroll flower early and kill the bugs. Orane Oil is a powerful chemical, but it can hurt the plants if not diluted enough; but work well on ant hills.
- How can I get my peach tree to produce: main concern is the chill hours - we do not have enough chill time for them to produce fruit; also have borer insects that affect it; peaches and apples take a lot of work; need to talk to a vegetable/fruit specialist at Buchanan's.
- **Minutes Approval**
 - (Rochella) motion to accept last meeting's minutes as written, seconded (Matt); minutes passed as written
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - starting balance \$6,715.46
 - one disbursement \$5.00
 - one deposit \$85.00
 - \$6,795.46 ending balance
 - member dues have been deposited since for a total of \$370.00
 - \$7,165.46 current balance
- **Old Business / Reports**
 - Greater Heights Super Neighborhood Delegate
 - Mary could not be here tonight, so there is no report.
 - Beautification Committee Report
 - Mary asked if the beautification committee would mind moving the committee meetings to Sunday afternoon - members did not object.
 - Barb reports that a few more plantings have been completed; water schedule has been circulated; need to fertilize; need a volunteer that has a gas powered weed-eater to trim the neighborhood gardens.
 - Looking at signage to label the gardens as maintained by Clark Pines.
 - Communication Committee Report
 - Anthony is out of town so there is no report.
 - Lot Division
 - Question came up on status of lot size restrictions. Only 1900 block of W 14th remains unrestricted.
- **New Business / Announcements**
 - House on 1800 block of 14th has been rented.
 - City of Houston Parks and Recreation: Association sent email to them formalizing objection to development that affects lighting and detention. Park has installed large flood lights at the batting cage. Lights are sometimes on until 10:30pm. Our intent is to reinforce to their attorneys that we expect they honor our original agreement limiting lighting and sound system development.
 - Clark Pines needs a volunteer to head up a committee to attend their meetings to object to the developments that are in conflict with the agreements. The Dad's Club is leasing the land from Flood Control; Dad's Club is saying that they have submitted information to Clark Pines and that Clark Pines have approved it. This is not true. Need volunteer to attend the next meeting of TIRZ in order to understand what is going on and to report back to Clark Pines CA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:12 PM.