

VillageWalk Garden Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2025

Town Center Hibiscus Room, 15291 Latitude Dr, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jackie Fegan at 2:02 p.m.

Quorum: A quorum was reached with the following Executive Board officers in attendance: President, Jackie Fegan; Second Co-Vice Presidents, Ed and Bernice Anzures; Treasurer, Don Blackwell; and committee chairs: Dolores Damiano-Szafran, Cheryl Gedris, Eileen McDonough, Val Shaha, Linda Blaise, Leslie Bischoff, Ellen Hintz, Walt Hintz

Absent: JB Schuetz, First Vice President; Pat Krusac, Secretary, Kim Place, Nina Iraggi

Secretary: Jackie is taking minutes for Pat. Minutes from the December VWG meeting were sent out and reviewed by the board. These will be approved at January meeting.

Finance: Don sent out December finances earlier to the board. He gave a quick summary. Cash roughly 219,000. \$215,000 of this is earmarked for the gardens. The remaining \$4000 is in the general funds. This is slightly higher than anticipated because the Holiday Party came in under budget. This final cost was \$1068 (\$3000 budgeted). Over ninety people attended and were charged a fee this year, saving \$1800.

The raffles at the Holiday Party and December meeting brought in an additional \$500. Kristi organized these and did a great job selling tickets.

Committee Chair reports:

Fundraising - Bake Sale. Ellen reported everything is going well. There are only 40 bakers signed up instead of 60 last year. Tables will be transported by the plant sale logistics group - thank you Val. Ellen asked about offering decaf and flavored coffee as well as regular coffee. Groups' opinion - stick with regular. Water has been picked up from Kelly. The banner and tent for checkout table. Packaging baked goods is Friday at 2:00.

Plant Sale - Val said we're in good shape. Val and Cheryl created color bowls using terra cotta bowl previously purchased by VWGC. These cost ~\$7.00 to make and will sell for \$25. Val has arranged for tables to be picked up from Linda's on Friday. Offsite pickup has also been arranged. Mark Salatto modified the large sign to have hinges so it can be folded to facilitate transport and storage. All signage for plant tables and pricing is done.

Eileen has a banner for the membership table. Cheryl will bring a cloth for raffle display table. Val brought more raffle tickets and jar for Kristi. Maureen Paenessa is selling raffle tickets. She is sick - Jackie will check in with her.

Linda will pick up the Sustainability banner from offsite. Val has asked that all tables be wiped off after the sale. The transportation group will handle returning tables.

Dolores ordered 110 herbs which should come on Friday.

Butterfly Gardens - Butterfly Festival: Linda sent Jackie a list of questions for the HOA. Jackie will submit to Richard Martin, HOA, and KW. These included request for all the plastic folding chairs and tents, gate access

for outside guests (needs clarification), signage by entry, fire truck parking on circle, port-a-potty. Linda plans on spraying the grass to outline setup. Would like to setup the night before.

Overview of festival: No sheriff; photos from Mick and Frank will be on sale again; raffle tent; bromeliads; coffee/sweets. Gina, a realtor in VW, is donating hotdogs.

Jackie will ask Richard when he will be sending e-mail blasts. Cheryl questioned why we can't put up large poster on an easel in the atrium. There have been posters for other events. Recently there was one for the car show. Jackie will follow up with Richard.

More gardeners are needed. Garden 5 needs a leader. Linda has garden tours set up for 1/29 and 2/6. Alva garden club has 25-30 people coming the 29th. Julia McCandlish has arranged for Women's Cultural group bring 14 people on 2/6. Tour guides/docents needed, Linda will train. Might have all leaders present their own gardens on tour.

Membership - Eileen reported we have 176 members. Yearbooks will be given out at next meeting. Eileen asked about using receipt book. Does everyone need to be given a receipt. Don said no. Eileen has draft of the 'Welcome' letter and emergency protocol. These were action items from last April.

Communications - Bernice and Ed are working on communication for the Butterfly Fest and have sent draft to Linda. The same strategy for the Plant/Bake sale will be followed. Val said they are doing a great job with communications. Lots of applause 🙌!

Sunshine - Kim sent her report to Jackie which Jackie read. 10 cards sent since Kim started in Oct. All stamps and stationery have been donated so there has been no need to request reimbursement.

Hospitality - Nina not present. Thursday, December 4, 2025 is the date for this year's Holiday Party/Dinner.

Trips and Tours - Leslie. T&T has 1 hour tour of Julie's Fruit Farm on 1/23. Cost is \$15. Historical Tour of Shangri-La (and maybe lunch if we have 8 or more) is planned for Feb.

March - American Farms

April - Littorals plants and ponds tour at Island Walk followed by lunch.

Horticulture and Wildlife: Cheryl said all articles are being presented in the newsletters and website.

Programs: JB not present. CREW is coming to 1/21 meeting.

Sustainability - JB is on CDD which has been a great help. At Decs mtg, the HOA finally saw the light. Mike Hertz and Randy VanAlstine supporting littoral project. 15 sights, covering 100 sq ft, have been suggested. Sustainability committee is recommending 200 sq ft. This would allow for greater visibility up the banks instead of just at water level; fewer but larger areas following Island Walk project. There is a meeting with Advanced Aquatics on 1/21. They will be taking over as VW Lake Management vendor. Mike Hertz is setting up a town hall meeting on 2/3 at 2:30 with Advanced Aquatics. This is an opportunity for the community to meet them and ask questions. There will be banners (?) and handouts about project at the plant sale and the butterfly festival.

Other Business

Val suggested introducing new members to each committee when they join. In the past VWGC has had committee chairs do mini overviews of committee goals/responsibilities. Membership sends out emails to committees with names of new members who have shown interest. We need to find ways to get more new people involved.

Nominating Committee - One person has joined. Still looking for others.

Jackie requested board members send email with intent for 2025-26 (stay in current position, drop off board, take over new position) before Tuesday 1/21 meeting.

Jackie mentioned a person was removing air plants from trees. His name is Art and he lives on Wahoo. He said landscapers have showed him how to do this. He stated air plants kill trees. Some people at the meeting know of this person. What he's doing is wrong and could be illegal (removing bromeliads).

Meeting Adjourned (Don moved/Ed seconded).

Submitted by Jackie Fegan; formatted by Patricia Krusac

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