

VillageWalk Garden Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Zoom meeting

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; (JB Schuetz, First Vice President - excused); Second Co-Vice Presidents, Ed and Bernice Anzures; Treasurer, Don Blackwell; and Secretary, Patricia Krusac; Eileen McDonough, Kim Place, Leslie Bischoff, Cheryl Gedris, Linda Blaise, Nina Iraggi, Val Shaha.

Jackie shared the VWGC new time for meeting - 1:00 (due to conflict with the Balance and Fitness Group) and the format as follows:

1:00 -1:30 Refreshments (For November meeting; may request an earlier start time if possible)

1:30 – 2:15 Speaker

2:15 – 3:00 Business Meeting

Island Walk friends have asked to attend. If Jackie hears from them in advance, Eileen offered to put them on the gate. We will not charge them. We will say “if they would like to donate a few dollars towards the speaker’s fees, they may, but it is not expected/mandatory”. They are welcome to join and listen to our speakers.

There have been maintenance issues along the fence line and sidewalk. Ed, Bernice, and JB have walked and photographed all issues and labeled the invasives. Bright View is trimming. There is quite a bit of growth on the fence – area needs to be bush whacked/sprayed to control the invasives. Jackie will send a letter to the HOA/KW with the pictures taken and a list of the invasive plants and ask them to share the schedule for maintenance (so we know whoever they hired is supposed to be there).

Jackie introduced Kim Place as our new Sunshine Committee Chair.

Butterfly Gardens: Linda spoke to Loryan and Bright View will again assist moving the bags of leaves to the Butterfly Gardens. This helps them and saves the BG approximately \$4,000. Last year there were about 500 bags spread as mulch. Gardens are in good shape after cleanup from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. During the garage sale, conversation with patrons about the proceeds being used to benefit the gardens because there are no funds received through VWBS budget.

Perhaps a note of appreciation for the community support. It is okay to post things (like the new Butterfly Garden brochure) in the Post Office but Jackie will verify as to whether we can use the towers to post newsletters. Reminder that per HOA/KW directive, only Jackie, Ed, or Bernice are allowed to communicate with Richard.

QR codes discussed for tours.

Communications/Website: Ed/Bernice A change form is needed for information to be added to the website. Please complete this form with new information to submit. November newsletter was excellent! They will attempt to do this monthly. Extra thanks to Catherine for making these so colorful and inviting. Flyers are next. It has been verified that Executive Board members are on the website.

Finance: Don shared that few receipts/expenses were received this month. Donations of \$150 in Charlotte Henning's memory plus \$500 directly to Garden 2. We are in good shape with \$229,000 on hand (\$221,000 earmarked for the Butterfly Gardens and the balance of \$8,000 for General Garden Club expenses). Mack and Arlene prefer a plaque in the Butterfly Gardens rather than a party. Discussion on raising dues. Finance Committee meets in late January, so this will be brought up at next month's meeting for Executive Board discussion/decision.

Fundraising: Jackie will have point meetings each month but subcommittee leaders will meet as needed to iron out details. Jackie will get a replacement for Joe on transportation.

Horticulture/Wildlife Education: Cheryl said she and Terry will submit articles directly to communication for the newsletters.

Hospitality: Nina gave a reminder that the Candy Cane Lane Holiday party is Thursday, December 5 at 5:30. Cost is \$15/members and \$30 for guests. Reservations must be received with payment by November 21 to Mary Freeh. There will be entertainment.

Membership: Eileen said the yearbook will be ready in December and we have 173 members. The committee is growing with a few more greeters, "dues takers". We appreciate Eileen's attention to detail and hard work on this major project.

Programs: JB absent but sent in a list of speakers:

November Tony Mauriello (FL native palms)

December Gordon Saager (The Fakahatchee Strand)

January Piper Jones (CREW)

February Beth Meehan (Hibiscus)

March or April (when available) a speaker on microplastics; March/April JB will fill this open spot;

May Plant Exchange.

Sunshine Committee: Kim had nothing to report today.

Sustainability/Environment: Dolores submitted a report that will be mailed out. Recap is that they are working hard on Littoral plants on our lakes. JB is now on the CDD. Information of recycling signage and requesting a coffee hour with Lee Recycling for more information. Anne is working on the microplastics speaker for April or May (availability). Water Management is inadequate. Could not get the required number of signatures for 2024 ballot amendment, so will try again in 2026. Lots being worked on by this group.

Trips/Tours: Leslie asked for any suggestions on places to visit. She will verify there is no overlap with HOA bus trips.

Other: Desert Roses: Val said in 2020 we received 86 and presold 67 for \$10 each; had 19 to sell at \$18. This year we received 100 but only 25 were preordered. JB has potted the 75 remaining to sell at the January Plant and Bake sale for \$25. There is concern that 75 is a lot to sell, so Val will have visual aids showing pictures of the grown, flowering plants to sell for \$20 at meetings. They make wonderful gifts, so promote them.

Next meeting is December 3, time to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:48, motion by Pat; seconded by Don

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krusac

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