

## **VillageWalk Garden Club Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2025 1:00 p.m.**

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

**Call To Order and Welcome:** President Jackie Fegan called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. and welcomed 45 Garden Club members and 8 guests.

**Introduction of Speaker & Program:** JB Schuetz introduced Beth Meehan from the James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society who spoke about growing and maintaining hibiscus.

### **Business Meeting:**

**President's report-** Jackie thanked members of the Nominations Committee (Dolores Damiano-Szafran, Barb Salatto, and Deanna Dyne) for their hard work. Terry Galloway has suggested creating a VillageWalk Garden Club cookbook as a possible fundraiser.

**Secretary's Report-** Val Shaha filled in for Secretary Pat Krusac, and asked for a motion to accept the January 21<sup>st</sup> Garden Club meeting minutes. Nina Iraggi made the motion, it was seconded by Don Blackwell, and passed.

**Treasurer's Report-** Don Blackwell reported that a profit of \$4738 was made at the 2025 Plant & Bake Sale. Our current balance for both general use and earmarked for the Butterfly Gardens is \$220,297.79. A meeting will be held within the next two weeks to plan the budget for 2025-2026.

**Membership Committee-** Eileen McDonough reported that there are now 180 Garden Club members. Dues are now due and payable for the 2025-2026 year. Dues will be \$20/person and \$35/couple.

**Nominations Committee-** Dolores introduced the other two committee members and announced the candidates for the upcoming year. They are:

President	-	Cheryl Gedris
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/Programs Committee Co-Chairs	-	Jackie Fegan & Leslie Bischoff
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP/Communications Committee Chair	-	Val Shaha
Secretary	-	Lee Ann Podruch
Treasurer	-	Don Blackwell

**Butterfly Gardens-** Linda Blaise reminded everyone of the Butterfly Fest Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10- 2:00.

**Hospitality-** Nina announced that the 2025 Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Trips & Tours-** Gail Brinley said that the February 27<sup>th</sup> organic gardens and historic tour at Shangri-La has sold out. Linda Musick promoted the April 10<sup>th</sup> trip to IslandWalk to tour their littorals and have lunch. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Meet at the bocce courts at 9:15 a.m.

**Sustainability-** Dolores and other committee members met several times with the HOA and Advanced Aquatics to discuss the location of future littoral plantings. A town hall meeting was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to share their plans with a huge turnout of VW residents attending. The Sustainability Committee is looking for a knowledgeable member with irrigation experience. They are also looking for someone to help with the native plant initiative.

**Next Meeting:** The next general meeting of the VWGC will be on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the Hibiscus Room. The topic will be Microplastics presented by the League of Women Voters for Collier County.

**Adjourn:** With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Shaha