

VillageWalk Garden Club Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Via Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Gedris at 3:02 PM.

Quorum: A quorum was reached with the following Executive Board officers in attendance: President Cheryl Gedris; 1st VP Leslie Bischoff; 2nd VP Val Shaha; Treasurer Don Blackwell; Secretary LeeAnn Podruch; Past President Jackie Feegan; Committee Chairs Eileen McDonough, Membership; Dolores Damiano-Szafran, Sustainability; Leslie Bischoff and Jackie Feegan, Program Co-chairs.

President's Report:

1. General Meeting time frame: Cheryl reported that the General Meeting time frame will be 1:00 – 2:30 with the speaker scheduled to begin at 1:15 PM.
2. Plant/Bake Sale rain date has been set for January 25th. A chairperson or co-chairperson for the January Bake Sale is needed. Val agreed to send an email out to solicit members for that position.
3. Yearbook—Butterfly Festival to be included in Yearbook—discussion. Eileen assured the Board that the information will be included in the Yearbook. Additionally, the rain date for the Butterfly Festival has been set for March 8th.
4. Approval of YouTube link for the website. A motion was made by Don that the webmaster, Roger VanderKolk, incorporate a YouTube link into the VWGC website. Seconded by Val, motion passed.
5. Advertisements from outside the community. The consensus was that VWGC would not promote activities for groups outside of the VW community.
- 6.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Don Blackwell provided the monthly financial statement for August via email on September 3rd. Revenue (dues collection) \$90, expenses \$3,652 attributed to the Butterfly Garden and \$150 for the additional room for the Holiday Party. (After updated information, the correct amount is \$100). Investments totaled \$81 for interest and bonds and CDs increased by \$407. The ending balance for August is \$250,857 with \$246,391 earmarked for the Butterfly Garden and \$4,466 for the General operating fund. The complete financial statement is attached to the Minutes. Don also reported that VWGC is in a strong financial position. The Audit Committee, Carl Cappadona, completed the audit

and declared a clean opinion on the financials of VWGC. A special “thank you” to Carl for undertaking this very necessary task.

Committee Reports:

Programs (Jackie and Leslie): The programs have been set for November to February and March and April will be finalized shortly. The Annual Plant Exchange will be the program for May. The date for the April Meeting may be changed from Tuesday, April 21st to Thursday, April 23rd due to the speaker’s availability.

Membership (Eileen): Eileen reported that currently there are 161 members. A Welcome Letter will be sent to new members in November along with the “Come Grow With Us” information. The Yearbook will be sent to the printed by September 29th so that hopefully it will be ready by the end of October.

Communication (Val): Val reported that she will be arranging with Roger VanderKolk (VWGC Webmaster) to implement the YouTube link into the VWGC Website. The first link will add the video of the Butterfly Festival. The Holiday Party Save the Date has been sent to the membership. It appears that the Butterfly Festival photos have yet to be incorporated into the Talk of the Walk. Val will investigate whether the photos can be included in the yearend review of Talk of the Walk. Val discussed strategies for making sure that the VWGC Website is updated in a timely manner with the information provided. It was suggested that Kristi DiCecco and Roger be invited to a VWGC Executive Board Meeting in the near future to discuss how best to add materials to the Website. Other options were also discussed. Val will contact Roger to discuss with him. Val also requested that in the near future, she will ask Committees to review the VWGC Website to add photos and content where necessary to augment the Website. In the future, Village Walk Next Door will be utilized as an additional vehicle for communication to members and residents of VW. Eileen agreed to head that initiative as a member of the Communications Committee. The littoral poster designed by the committee will be posted at the next Membership Meeting for informational purposes.

Butterfly Garden (Cheryl Reported): The rain date has been set. The Committee plans to meet September 18th to begin planning (recruitment and advertising) for the Butterfly Festival in March. The Butterfly Festival is looking at alternative ways to advertise within VW.

Sustainability (Dolores): Littoral plantings have been planted with approximately 576 plants placed in pre-determined locations. JB Schuetz and Dolores requested Mike Hertz with the HOA to see where the plantings had been completed but due to conflicts, this was not accomplished Dolores recommended that the VWGC Sustainability Committee now

conclude their commitment due to the HOA's indication that they will be responsible for the future of this endeavor and do not seem to welcome VWGC's input. Dolores expressed appreciation for the work that the CDD Committee (JB is a member) has done to promote the littoral plantings. It was recommended that individual members of the VW community contact the HOA with questions and concerns about the littoral plantings project and its future success. The littoral poster designed by the Committee will be posted at the next Membership Meeting for informational purposes. The Sustainability Committee is working on finalizing what the next project will be.

Hospitality (Cheryl reported for the Committee): The Hospitality Committee was able to negotiate for an additional room for the Holiday Party for \$150. (This was later corrected to \$100).

Other Business: Eileen wanted to confirm that the rooms have been reserved through VW for the VW Executive Board Meeting and Members Meeting (November 3rd and 11th). This will be followed up on by Cheryl.

Adjourn: Don made a motion to adjourn at 3:05 PM/seconded by Val. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

LeeAnn Podruch, Secretary

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