

VillageWalk Garden Club Executive Board Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2025 1:00 PM
Royal Palm Room

Call to order and establish quorum:

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by President Cheryl Gedris. A quorum was reached with the following Executive Board officers in attendance: President Cheryl Gedris; 2nd VP Val Shaha; Treasurer Don Blackwell; Secretary LeeAnn Podruch. Also present were Committee Chairs Linda Blaise, Butterfly Gardens; Eileen McDonough, Membership; Dolores Damiano-Szafran, Sustainability; Linda Musick, Trips and Tours, and Kristi DiCecco and Lynn Lewis.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary LeeAnn Podruch presented the minutes from the September 10, 2025 VWGC Executive Board Meeting. Motion made by Don Blackwell, seconded by Val Shaha, to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

President's Report:

Lynn Lewis:

Cheryl introduced Lynn Lewis as the future Treasurer, who will be replacing Don Blackwell. Don will be moving from VW within several months. Grateful appreciation was expressed to Don for his excellent work as Treasurer.

Donor Benches:

An inquiry was received from a VW resident regarding an interest in donating an additional bench in the Butterfly Gardens area. After discussion, there was a consensus that there is not a current need for additional benches. Cheryl will respond to the resident who made the inquiry.

Donor List:

It was recommended that Kristi DiCecco continue to make a donor list available for display at each member meeting.

Information Card for Realtors:

Butterfly Gardens and VWGC trifold brochures will be made available to realtors.

Trifold Butterfly Gardens:

The brochure has been printed and is located in the Butterfly Garden.

Trifold Garden Club:

The draft brochure was presented to the EC for their review. It is in draft format and several suggestions were made by EC members. When finalized, it will be located in the same location as the Trifold Butterfly Gardens brochure in the Butterfly Gardens.

Advertisement in Talk of the Walk:

Dawn has approved a ½ page ad in the Talk of the Walk for a request for volunteers to assist in the ongoing maintenance of the Butterfly Gardens.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Don Blackwell reported the current month's financials. The VWGC continues to be in a strong financial position, both for the Butterfly Gardens dedicated reserve (\$242,633) and the unrestricted reserve (\$4,371). The October Treasurer's Financial Statement will be attached to these Minutes.

Communications:

Communications Chair Val Shaha began by updating the EB on the upcoming December Holiday Party. Invitations have been sent out and RSVPs are coming in.

Website Amendments and Additions:

Val reported on the policy for implementing changes to the VWGC Website. A “Website Change Request Form” will be submitted to Val who will then provide the form to Kristi. Kristi will make sure that Roger, the Webmaster, is provided the form to input the necessary changes. It is estimated that it will be about a 2 week turnaround for amendments and additions to be implemented.

Val is requesting that all Committee Chairs check the website carefully to make sure that the information for their committee is relevant and timely. If changes are to be made, the changes will be made with the process outlined above.

Val will need a detailed list as soon as possible for the Programs so they can be included in the Talk of the Walk in a timely manner.

You Tube and Facebook:

Since Roger was present at the meeting via Zoom, he was asked to discuss the potential for a You Tube link in the VWGC website in order to allow videos to be made available. Roger cautioned that due to the significant data size of a video, if the video was within the website, it could significantly slow down the website. Roger will check into the potential costs for adding You Tube.

Logo Change:

Val noted that there was some concern that the VWGC logo may not be correctly depicting Florida specifications. Val will have the logo designer draw up a new logo to incorporate the Florida State Butterfly—the Zebra Longwing, and the Florida State Native Flower, the Coreopsis and present to the EB for review. The new logo will be phased in over time.

Butterfly Gardens:

Committee Chair Linda Blaise reported on the various initiatives to solicit more volunteers to tend to the Butterfly Gardens, among them Trunk or Treat, signage, brochures, and, in the future, Next Door. Linda will be working with her committee on advertising the Butterfly Gardens Event in March.

Sustainability:

Committee Chair Dolores Damiano-Szafran updated the EB on her last meeting with the CDD and the littorals project. Going forward, the VWGC Sustainability Committee will not be involved in the VW CDD littorals project unless specifically requested by the VW CDD. Dolores reported that she cautioned the CDD that the long-term success of the littoral plantings in VW will depend on dedicated maintenance.

JB Schuetz will be assuming the Chair of the Sustainability Committee in January.

Membership:

Committee Chair Eileen McDonough reported that there are 167 members of the VWGC. The EB applauded Eileen for the excellent May 2025 – April 2026 Yearbook.

Programs:

No report.

Trips and Tours:

Committee Chair Linda Musick reported that there will be four trips/tours beginning in January and concluding in April. More information will be forthcoming and publicized in the near future.

Adjournment:

Val made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 PM, Don seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

LeeAnn Podruch, Secretary
VWGC