

VillageWalk Garden Club Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2025 1:00 p.m.

Town Center, Grand Cypress Room, 15291 Latitude Dr, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President, Cheryl Gedris at 1:05 who welcomed 51 members and guests.

Program: Jackie Fegan, Chair of the Program's Committee, introduced the speaker, Stephanie English, sensei from Naples Ikebana to demonstrate the first school Ikebana which is Ikenobo. She made numerous beautiful arrangements. Further information can be found on Ikebananaples.com

Business Meeting:

Secretary's Report: VWGC November Member's Meeting Minutes were available on the website. A motion to accept November's minutes was made by Val Shaha/seconded by Don Blackwell. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Don Blackwell discussed the monthly financial statement for November. Revenues were \$4100, expenses were \$5000 with an ending balance of \$247,200 with \$240,000 earmarked for the Butterfly Garden and \$7,200 for Discretionary Club purposes. Lynn Lewis-Rogers was introduced, to applause, as our new Treasurer. Best wishes and thanks to Don for his years of dedicated service.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising (Val Shaha and Leslie Bishop): Val introduced one and only fundraiser - our Plant and Bake sale – to be held on January 24. For the plant part, we need volunteers to set up/tear down the tables and displays; general sales assistance for guests; and transporting the tables back and forth to the storage unit.

Leslie further explained the need for assistance in the Bake Sale part of the day. We need bakers; on Friday, people to package the delicious goodies; set up of the risers and baked goods; and general sales volunteers. Contact either/both of these ladies for further questions and to volunteer. More to follow as the date approaches.

Membership (Eileen McDonough): Eileen reported we had six new members for a total of 176.

Hospitality (Nina Iraggi): Nina shared the success of last week's Holiday Party and recognized the planning committee members. It was a wonderful fun-filled evening with great food, fellowship, DJ, and dancing.

Butterfly Garden (Linda Blaise): The Gardens are losing 7 gardeners and a recruiting committee has been formed. They are asking if you can donate even an hour a week, they have jobs that do not involve kneeling or bending. She also explained how valuable leaves are in the garden (saving about \$3000 in mulch expenses) and offered leaf bags for volunteers to fill. Gardener will even pick them up after you've raked/collected the leaves. Live Oak are the most plentiful but magnolia will also work.

Sustainability (Dolores Damiano-Szafran): Dolores shared their newest initiative to raffle a native plant at each meeting. This month's plant was a Beach Verbena.

Trips and Tours (Linda Musick): Linda shared some upcoming trips. January is an Everglades Boat Tour; February is Collier County Agricultural Bus Tour (highly sought trip) with rave reviews from past attendees. Watch for further details.

Other Business:

Raffle: The raffle consisted of the native plant and two collections of gardening books. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who supported the raffle.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2026 in the Grand Cypress Room with the meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn: With no other business to discuss, Don made a motion to adjourn at 2:29 p.m., seconded by Dolores. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krusac for LeeAnn Podruch

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