

VillageWalk Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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 1:08 PM who welcomed 45 members and guests.

Program: Leslie Bischoff, Co-Chair of the Program's Committee, introduced the speaker, Jay Hebert, a VillageWalk resident and horticulturist and landscape designer, who presented "Gardening for Snowbirds."

Business Meeting:

President's Report: Cheryl discussed the importance of marketing the Plant and Bake Sale this Saturday. Her additional comments are contained in the various reports.

Secretary's Report: LeeAnn Podruch noted that the December Minutes were available on the website. A motion was made by Kristi DiCecco and seconded by Pat Krusac to accept the December Minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Lewis Rogers presented the monthly financial statement for December. Revenues were \$2,200, expenses were \$5,400 with an ending balance of \$243,838 with \$239,650 earmarked for the Butterfly Garden and \$4,188 for Discretionary Club purposes.

Communication (Val Shaha): Val reported that Sign Up Genius is available for VWGC Meeting sign up. Sign up for Trips and Tours is done privately through VWGC. Val expressed a thank you to the Newsletter Committee for the informative January VWGC Newsletter.

Fundraising: Plant and Bake Sale (Cheryl, Jackie, Val, Leslie): Cheryl reported that there will be posters up to advertise the Plant and Bake Sale. Cheryl requested that all VWGC Members spread the word about the fundraiser on Saturday. Please tell your neighbors, friends, and announce the Plant and Bake Sale at clubs or events members attend. Val announced that the Plant Sale volunteers are making preparations to have beautiful plants available for purchase on Saturday and expressed appreciation for the volunteers that signed up to assist. Leslie and Jackie reviewed the process for baked goods donations (Friday) and volunteers at the event on Saturday. VWGC is fortunate to have a membership of volunteers.

Programs (Jackie and Leslie): The February and March Programs will be presented by Connie Nagelle who will be speaking on the importance of Butterfly Counts and Gardens in VillageWalk. The April Program will be a presentation by Patrick Ferguson from the Sierra Club. More information will be updated as the meetings approach.

Sustainability (JB Shuetz): JB began by thanking Dolores Damiano-Szafranas the previous Chair of the Sustainability Committee. Anne Brownstone updated the membership on microplastics and the role we all play in reducing their effect on the environment. JB announced that there will be a one hour tour of Littoral Plantings that have been completed in VW tomorrow for those who are interested. JB welcomes anyone interested in joining the Sustainability Committee to please contact him.

Membership (Eileen McDonough): No report.

Butterfly Garden (Linda Blaise): VWGC Butterfly Gardens are looking for additional volunteers. Please contact Linda. The VW GC Butterly Festival plans are proceeding as planned with members encouraged to assist with marketing for the event.

Trips and Tours (Rita Pignato and Eileen Rowell): Rita and Eileen will be the new Chairs of Trips and Tours. The Everglades trip in January is fully subscribed. The February Bonita Springs Historical Tour still has available spots. The March Trips and Tours has been cancelled. April 16th there will be a botanical tour with more information forthcoming.

Hospitality (Nina Iraggi): No report.

Sunshine (Kim Place and Karen DeMare): No report.

Other Business: No other business.

Raffle: A raffle was held for two beautiful plants. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who supported the raffle.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2026 in the Grand Cypress Room at 1:00 PM.

Adjourn: With no other business to discuss, Pat Krusaz made a motion to adjourn at 2:28 PM/ seconded by Terry Galloway. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

LeeAnn Podruch, Secretary

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