

VillageWalk Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 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 1:16 PM who welcomed 43 members and guests. A quorum for the meeting was established.

Prior to the program beginning, Cheryl presented a plaque to Dolores Damiano-Szafran for her outstanding many years of service to the VWGC, holding many positions on the Executive Board, including President, and most recently, the Chair of the Sustainability Committee. A big thank you to Dolores—you will be missed!

Program: Leslie Bischoff, Co-Chair of the Program Committee, introduced the speaker, Connie Nagele, who is a master gardener and spoke on Gardening for Pollinators.

Business Meeting:

President's Report: Cheryl updated the members on the results of the Nominating Committee and expressed her concern with the lack of nominees for the Executive Board positions. The Nominating Committee did not have a slate of Officers prepared by the February Meeting, due to difficulty finding members who would agree to serve. After much effort by the Nominating Committee, Cheryl presented the results of the Nominating Committee:

President: Val Shaha

1st VP: Catherine Japuntich

2nd VP: JB Schuetz

Secretary: LeeAnn Podruch

Treasurer: Open Position

The Secretary cast one ballot for the candidates. The Installation will take place at the April Meeting. Cheryl made a plea for members to consider submitting their name for the position of Treasurer, especially if they have a background in bookkeeping, accounting, or finance.

Secretary's Report: LeeAnn Podruch noted that the Minutes from the February Meeting were available on the website. A motion was made by Elizabeth Banks and seconded by Val Shaha to accept the Minutes for the February Meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Lewis Rogers presented the monthly financial statement for February. Revenues were almost \$2,300, expenses were around \$2,400. Most of the expenses were charged to multiple gardens including to the "all gardens," the Butterfly Festival, and the reservation for the Holiday Party. The expenditures were artificially lower because the Capitol One credit card bill was not reflected in the checking account by the end of February. The Butterfly Festival collected over \$7,500 from donations, plant sales, the raffle, etc. However, many expenditures have not been submitted or recorded. The Net Proceeds from the Butterfly Festival will be reported in the April Finance Report. Lynn reported an ending cash and investment balance of \$245,859 with \$237,163 earmarked for the Butterfly Garden and \$8,696 for Discretionary Club purposes.

Communication (Val Shaha): No report

Programs (Leslie): The April Program will be a presentation by the Sierra Club regarding environmental programs in Florida.

Committee Reports:

Sustainability (JB): JB reminded members that the oak leaves that have fallen recently provide excellent mulch for flower beds and are an excellent source of nutrients. The Sustainability Committee has contacted the HOA to request that a native tree be planted in Village Walk in honor of Arbor Day in April.

Membership (Eileen McDonough): Eileen reminded the members that dues for 2026 are now due by April 30th. Single membership is \$20 and Couple membership is \$35. In order to print the 2026 – 2027 VWGC Directory, Eileen will need the renewed memberships completed in a timely manner. Please renew by April 30th.

Butterfly Garden (Linda Blaise): No report.

Trips and Tours (Rita): The April 16th trip is a guided tour of the Naples Botanical Garden with a focus on orchids. The deadline for sign-up is March 28th. There is still room for more attendees!

Hospitality (Nina Iraggi): Thank you to the members of the Hospitality Committee for the delicious goodies prior to the meeting. Nina also announced that the VWGC Holiday Party will be held in early December with a theme of “Toyland.” Members will be asked to donate toys as decorations for the event with the toys then being donated to an organization for children.

Sunshine (Karen DeMare): Members are encouraged to contact Karen if they know of someone who could use a card or message. The role of the Sunshine Committee is to provide caring, support, and friendship for those in need. Please contact Karen if you know of someone who would appreciate a little “sunshine.”

Other Business: None

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

Next Meeting: April 21, 2026 in the Grand Cypress Room at 1:00 PM.

Adjourn: With no other business to discuss, Val Shaha made a motion to adjourn at 2:27PM, seconded by JB. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

LeeAnn Podruch, Secretary

VillageWalkGardenClub.com