

# VillageWalk Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 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 1:10 PM who welcomed 40 members. There were no guests. A quorum for the meeting was established.

Cheryl invited everyone to the dedication of a Buttonwood Tree recently purchased by the Garden Club and installed behind the bocce courts at the conclusion of our meeting. Our thanks to JB Schuetz who spearheaded this project in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day.

**Program:** Jackie Fegan, Co-Chair of the Program Committee, introduced the speaker, Patrick Ferguson from the Sierra Club. Patrick spoke about the 'Stop the Burn' Campaign, which promotes moving from burning sugar cane in central Florida to green harvesting.

## **Business Meeting:**

**President's Report:** Cheryl updated the members about efforts to fill the Treasurer position. Lynn Lewis has agreed to fill our Executive Board's Treasurer position with help from another yet to be named volunteer. These two positions will coordinate the banking duties with the data entry duties. To make that job easier and more efficient, the Executive Board decided to purchase and use a QuickBooks program.

**Secretary's Report:** In Secretary LeeAnn Podruch's absence, Val Shaha noted that the minutes from the March 17th meeting were available on the website. A motion was made by Pat Krusac and seconded by Kristi DiCecco to accept the minutes for the March meeting. Motion passed.

Cheryl then called for a vote from Executive Board members to purchase QuickBooks at a cost of \$787 for the first year. A motion was made by Val Shaha and seconded by Lynn Lewis. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lynn Lewis Rogers presented the monthly financial statement for March. Revenues were \$9,700 and expenses were \$16,100. Most of the expenses were charged to multiple gardens including "all gardens" and the Butterfly Festival. The expenditures were artificially high because two monthly Capitol One credit card statements were recorded in March and the offsite storage fee was pre-paid for two years to secure a discounted rate. The Butterfly Festival collected over \$6,000 from donations, plant sales, the raffle, etc. The Net Proceeds from the Butterfly Festival totaled \$2,300. However, expenditures are still being submitted. Lynn reported an ending cash and investment balance of \$240,736 with \$231,197 earmarked for the Butterfly Garden and \$9,539 for Discretionary Club purposes.

**Annual Meeting Reports:** Print copies of each committee's annual report and the 2026-2027 budget were available for everyone to review.

**Installation of Officers:** Cheryl presented the 2026-2027 Executive Board officers:

President	-	Val Shaha
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	-	JB Schuetz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	-	Cathy Japuntich
Secretary	-	LeeAnn Podruch
Treasurer	-	Lynn Lewis

Cheryl presented each officer with a packet of flower seeds appropriate for their respective positions.

**Butterfly Committee Chairs:** Cheryl introduced the new co-chairs of the Butterfly Gardens Committee- Kristi DiCecco and Amy Swason, and thanked Linda Blaise for her many years of service chairing this committee.

**Other Business:** Sally Golightly introduced the theme of this year's December 3<sup>rd</sup> Holiday Party which is 'Toyland'. Everyone is encouraged to bring a stuffed animal or toy during November which will serve as the party's decorations and then be donated to a worthy cause.

On behalf of the Executive Board and the entire membership, Val Shaha presented Past President Cheryl Gedris and Treasurer Lynn Lewis with orchid plants in thanks for all their hard work and dedication this past year.

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

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be the annual Plant Exchange on May 19th in the Grand Cypress Room at 1:00 PM.

**Adjourn:** With no other business to discuss, Pat Krusac made a motion to adjourn and walk over to the site of the new Buttonwood tree for the dedication at 2:20PM, seconded by Lynn Lewis. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

-Val Shaha

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