

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2020**

1. Call to Order: President Sara Wolf called the meeting to order on Zoom at 10:07 a.m. and determined that a quorum (3 officers plus 8 committee chairs) was not present. The following board members were in attendance: Sara Wolf, Marianne Foley, Dale DeFeo, Susan Neustadt, Kimberly Korb Porter, Annette Kuhn, Cristina Leske, Lindy Kowalczyk, Susan LaGrotta, Sue Oldershaw. Parliamentarian Dale DeFeo suggested that although a quorum is not present, we could vote on matters with our group of 10 members and solicit additional board member votes by Email since Email voting is permitted in our by-laws. The group agreed.
2. Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2020 Board Meeting. The 10 members present approved the minutes of the November 2, 2020 Board Meeting by consensus. Approvals by additional members will be solicited by the President by Email.
3. Officer Reports
 - 3.1. President – Sara Wolf. Sara made the following announcements.
 - We are seeking additional volunteers to take minutes for Board and Member meetings. We need only 2 additional volunteers because we have Margy Bruckman for January and Anne Gary for February, and Sara Wolf will take minutes for the 2 December meetings. We need volunteers for March and April.
 - We have an additional 10 tickets to sell for the 2021 Opportunity Drawing at 2021 FFGC Convention for \$2 each. Sara asked interested persons to contact her at sarawolf617@gmail.com or by text or phone at 513.706.8681. Sara will bring the tickets to the Holiday Meeting and Get Together on December 7.
 - Coastal Breeze Gardening Column: Maria Lamb writes this with input from Calusa Garden Club. Change -- the December column will be about Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti and other winter-blooming plants. Maria also plans a column on tillandsia. Suggestions for additional columns were made by board members, including container gardening (Earth Boxes), decorative container planters, and decorating with orchids such as fastening them to trees.
 - Sara thanked Maria Lamb for the November article on CGC members remembering Veterans Day by sharing photos of their relatives who served in the military, and also thanked her for the November article on decorating pumpkins with succulents and Dale's workshop at the library.
 - Festival of Trees: Sara reported that no member offered to decorate a tree for this event and that the deadline for entries had passed.
 - 3.2. First VP – Programs: Susan LaGrotta: Susan said all of the speakers who had previously agreed to speak at our Zoom meetings have cancelled or asked for a change in dates. She has secured Eric Jadaszewski to speak at the January meeting about Florida native plants.

- 3.3. Second VP – Membership: Susan Neustadt: Susan reported that as of today, Calusa Garden club has 55 active members and 12 associate members. Susan reviewed the application she had received from Nancy Knight, and upon motion made by Susan, seconded by Dale DeFeo, Nancy's application for membership was approved. Susan also mentioned that Peggy Anuta has indicated an interest in joining the Club and will soon be submitting her application, and Julie Walker, a new neighbor of Lindy Kowalczyk has indicated an interest in membership and Susan sent her an application. The Board suggested that Nancy Knight, Peggy Anuta and Julie Walker be invited to the December 7 get-together. Susan will follow up with them.
- 3.4. Treasurer – Annette Kuhn. Assistant Treasurer Margie Bramel. Annette reported that the bank balance is \$18,689.44. She listed a few expenses paid in November including the renewal of our 2 domain names and several reimbursements for the November 24 Plant and Thanksgiving Arrangement Sale.
- 3.5. Secretary –Vacant.
- 3.6. Corresponding Secretary – Cristina Leske. Cristina sent a get well card to Linda Chute, a member who is in poor health. Dale DeFeo suggested that we send a sympathy card to Kathleen Hawryluk, who recently lost her husband. Kathleen is a member and former president of Naples Garden Club, President of Creative Flower Arrangers of the Americas, and a floral design teacher from whom many of us have taken classes. She also has judged our club's flower show many times. Cristina also reported that she has asked Eve Kubinsky to order more Calusa Garden Club thank-you notes.
4. Committee Reports: Sara asked for committee chairs to give her written reports for the Monday, December 7 meeting. She stated that she would them on the Agenda to be sent out before the December 7 meeting and get-together. If no reports are listed in these minutes, there was no report given at the meeting. Reporting at this meeting were:
 - 4.1. Butterfly Garden – Susan LaGrotta. Susan stated that the Butterfly Garden work group would meet on Saturday, December 19 at 8:30 a.m., and not as regularly scheduled on December 26.
 - 4.2. Email Blasts – Marianne Foley. Marianne reported that she would like to send out an Email blast of the CFAA newsletter, and the Board members agreed.
 - 4.3. Facebook – Susan LaGrotta. Susan asked that we publicize to the members that she wants to put photos of our Thanksgiving arrangements and succulent-decorated pumpkins on the Facebook page. Sara added that she would appreciate members sending photos of those items to her for a story to be sent to the newspapers.
 - 4.4. Flowers in Public Places- Connie Lowery, Marianne Foley. Marianne reported that in November, she gave a pumpkin-shaped basket container planted with a dish garden to the Library, and they loved it so much that she left it there.

- 4.5. Gardening Guide Marketing Committee – Linda Colombo. We will have Gardening Guides available for members at the Holiday Meeting and Get-Together on Monday December 7. Since no sales are allowed at Sarazen Park, members will sign their names and then send their checks or cash to Annette Kuhn.
- 4.6. Memorial Markers – Linda Colombo. Sara Wolf remarked that the Blue Star Marker garden looks very nice.
- 4.7. Newsletter – Ami Ruiz: Due date for copy for December newsletter is today, December 2.
- 4.8. Pioneer Garden – Dale DeFeo. Dale met with Marco Island Historical Society personnel about the Pioneer Garden. She explained that CGC has fulfilled nearly 2 years of its agreement to plant and take care of the garden for 1 year. The MIHS personnel were new, and had very little knowledge of the past discussions about the garden between our two organizations. Dale brought them up to date and gave the MIHS personnel copies of all the research and notes that had been done. MIHS personnel were concerned about the banana plants and the sweet potato plants. Dale explained how to cut down the banana foliage after it bore fruit, and that the sweet potato vines were representative of a crop pioneers would have planted. Nonetheless, they asked for the sweet potato vines to be removed, which Dale did by removing them in their pots. Dale handed over the materials to MIHS and MIHS thanked us for getting the Pioneer Garden started for them. This project is concluded.
- 4.9. Plant and Thanksgiving Arrangement Sale- Sara Wolf and Susan LaGrotta sent cancellation announcements to all publicity channels to which they had previously sent event announcements. Unfortunately, there were a few glitches. Sara Wolf arranged with St. Mark's Episcopal Church for our \$100 deposit to be applied to a future 2021 Plant and Arrangement Sale, date to be determined. The Board discussed whether we should set a date for the 2021 event – should we schedule it for spring? Or for fall? The consensus was that we should wait and see, but that we should target Thanksgiving of 2021.

As an aside, Sara discussed the possibility of CGC hosting a Garden Tour for the public, and said she had originally scheduled one and listed it in our Meeting and Event Schedule for March of 2021. The Board members present generally agreed that March of 2021 was too soon for public mingling due to the corona virus pandemic. Sara suggested we schedule a Garden Tour for the public for March of 2022. The Board members mentioned that we may be scheduling a Flower Show in March of 2022, so there was no official action taken.

- 4.10. Publicity/Archives-- Sara Wolf (Maria Lamb also writes for *Coastal Breeze News*).
 - Sara reported that she and Susan LaGrotta had sent cancellation announcements for the Plant Sale to Coastal Breeze News, Marco Eagle, Eye on Marco, FFGC website and calendar, and District IX Facebook page, and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Maria Lamb's two November columns for Coastal Breeze News were on decorating craft pumpkins with succulents and veterans in CGC families. Her December column for *Coastal Breeze News* will be on Thanksgiving/Christmas cacti.
 - Suggestions for more columns were given during the Announcements portion of this meeting.

- Sara Wolf asked Board members to send her photos of your Thanksgiving arrangements and of your succulent-decorated pumpkins, saying that the photos and story will make a great article. She reminded members that the newspapers prefer photos of people with the items.

4.11. Scholarships and Camperships – Marianne Foley. Marianne reported that she will begin sending the applications for college scholarships to schools in January, 2021.

4.12. Special Events – Kimberly Porter, Janice Engel.

- Holiday Get-Together: Kim Porter reported on the Holiday Get-Together, to be held Monday, December 7, 2020 at Sarazen Park, South Beach, from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Due to the corona virus, we will have no food or beverages. Kim reminded members to wear masks and bring lawn chairs to facilitate social distancing, that we would have a plant exchange (voluntary) with 2 plants per member, and that we will provide a gift to attendees from the Shell Club Sale. We will also have a casual Photo Booth with the Calusa Garden Club banner. She asked that we send another Eblast reminding members to respond to Janice Engel so they can get a correct count for the favors. Kim asked that persons who need help with parking or transportation should contact her.

4.13. Special Projects- Bonnie Colman. Sara Wolf said she will contact Brenda Rasch at the Library to see whether she wants to schedule Calusa Garden Club to present another Zoom educational presentation in 2021.

4.14. Website- Linda Colombo. Linda Colombo was absent, but she reported by Email prior to the meeting that the two website domain names, *calusa.org* and *CalusaGardenClub.com*, had been renewed.

4.15. Workshops

- Environment – Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw (1 workshop)
- Floral Design -Lindy Kowalczyk (2 workshops on meeting days); plus 5 more scheduled Floral Design workshops by Zoom presented by other designers or through online tutorials.
- Horticulture - Donna Kay (2 workshops). Next horticulture workshop is in January.

5. Old Business

5.1. ByLaws Revision – not ready for presentation or voting.

5.2. Work Group to identify plants at Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary. Sara Wolf moved, and Dale DeFeo seconded a motion, that Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island engage in a project with Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary to identify plants along its walking path through the Sanctuary, and that Sara Wolf be authorized to define the parameters of the project in connection with personnel from the Nature Preserve, and that Sara Wolf be authorized to ask members of the Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society to join in the project.

Approved on January 5, 2021

The 10 Board Members present voted to adopt the motion. Additional votes will be solicited by Email, as is permitted by our Club ByLaws.

6. New Business. There was no new business proposed at the meeting.
7. Adjournment. Sara Wolf asked whether there was any additional business to come before the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by Sara Wolf, Acting Secretary

NEXT MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

- **Monday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Holiday Meeting and Plant Exchange, outdoors at Sarazen Park, South Beach, Swallow Avenue.
- **Monday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.** – Floral Design Workshop on Zoom
- **Monday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Board Meeting on Zoom
- **Monday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Meeting on Zoom
- **Friday, January 15** – Florida Arbor Day. Leigh Plummer Park. Time to be announced.
- **Monday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m.**- Floral Design Workshop

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND
MINUTES OF INFORMAL MEMBER MEETING
AT SARAZEN PARK, MARCO ISLAND
December 7, 2020**

8. Call to Order: President Sara Wolf and Second Vice President Susan Neustadt determined that a quorum was not present, so President Sara Wolf called the meeting to order as an informal meeting. The quorum requirement is one-quarter of the membership plus 3 officers. Although there were 18 members present from our membership total of 55 members and a quorum would be 13, only 2 officers were present so the meeting could not be called to order as an official meeting. The meeting began at 10: 25 a.m. Sara welcomed the members and thanked everyone for coming.
9. Thank You to Kimberly Porter, Janice Engel, Laura Furlong. Sara thanked Kimberly Porter and Janice Engel, Special Events Chairpersons, for organizing the get-together. She thanked Laura Furlong for bringing her camera in order to take a group photo and individual and group fun photos.
10. Plant Exchange. Sara thanked members for bringing plants for the plant exchange, and said the exchange was informal. Members should simply take the plants they wanted; there were bags available on the picnic table bench.
11. Approval of Minutes: November 9 Member Meeting. The minutes from the November 9 meeting were presented for approval by Email prior to the meeting. President Wolf asked those present to approve the minutes by consensus, which they did. However, the minutes will be sent out again by Email so that at least 3 officers can approve them in order for the approval to be official.
12. Announcements:
 - 12.1. President Wolf announced the upcoming Zoom meeting on Monday, December 14 by Zoom at which the attendees will view the second half of Lindy Kowalczyk's floral design lesson on traditional designs.
 - 12.2. Sara asked members to send her photos of their Thanksgiving and Christmas arrangements for a potential article for the newspapers, as well as for a CGC slide show for members.
 - 12.3. Sara announced that CGC Gardening Guides were available for purchase at this meeting. They were placed on the table with the posterboard listing the price.
 - 12.4. Sara announced that FFGC Calendar orders were being taken at this meeting. Information and a sample were presented on a posterboard under the chickee hut.
 - 12.5. Sara announced the next Board meeting would be Monday, January 4 by Zoom and the next member meeting would be Monday, January 11 by Zoom.

Sara ended the meeting by asking members to gather for the group photo, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Minutes submitted by President Sara Wolf.

Approved on January 5, 2021