

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 5, 2021– 10:00 a.m. by Zoom**

1. Call to Order: Parliamentarian Dale DeFeo asked whether a quorum consisting of 8 committee chairs plus 3 officers was present. President Sara Wolf determined that 4 officers were present: Sara Wolf, Susan LaGrotta, Cristina Leske and Annette Kuhn, and 8 committee chairs were present: Dale DeFeo, Sue Oldershaw, Donna Kay, Marianne Foley, Linda Colombo, Lindy Kowalczyk, Eva Kubinsky and Kimberly Porter. Also present by invitation were members Sharon Lewis and Monique Doyle. Sara Wolf called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Approval of Minutes: Sara Wolf presented the December 2, 2020 Board Meeting minutes and highlighted changes to the Second Vice President’s report. There were no additional changes or corrections to the minutes, and Sara declared them approved by consensus. Sara also noted that although we did not have a quorum at the December 2 Board Meeting to approve the minutes of the November Board Meeting, she sent the minutes out by Email subsequent to the meeting and received sufficient additional approvals from Board Members to declare the November Board Meeting minutes approved.
3. Officer Reports
  - 3.1. President – Sara Wolf
    - Sara asked for volunteers to take minutes for Board and Member meetings. January – Margy Bruckman cancelled due to being out of town; February – Anne Gary. Need volunteers for March and April.
    - Sara still has 10 tickets available at \$2 each for the 2021 Opportunity Drawing at the April 2021 FFGC Convention. Contact sarawolf617@gmail.com or text or phone 513.706.8681. 10 more to sell.
    - Coastal Breeze Gardening Column: Maria Lamb writes this with input from Calusa Garden Club. Sara reviewed that the December columns were about tillandsia and poinsettia. January will be winter-flowering trees and shrubs.
  - 3.2. First VP – Programs: Susan LaGrotta: Speaker for January 11 member meeting is Eric Jadaszewski of Everglades Native Designs, LLC. Sara will contact Eric to obtain a copy of his powerpoint presentation.
  - 3.3. Second VP – Membership: Susan Neustadt: 56 active members today and 12 associate members. Also Peggy Anuta has submitted an application. Sara read Peggy Anuta’s application, and the members briefly discussed that Peggy has been a member of the Marco Island Beautification Advisory Board. **After motion duly made and seconded**, and unanimously approved, it was agreed:

That Peggy Anuta be admitted as an active member of Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island.
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Sara will contact Susan Neustadt and let her know that Peggy was voted in as a member.

Another person who has shown some interest is Julie Walker, a neighbor of Lindy Kowalczyk. We have not received an application from Julie.

- 3.4. Treasurer – Annette Kuhn. Assistant Treasurer Margie Bramel. Bank Balance is \$18,292.86. Annette detailed the expenses paid for the prior month and the deposit of \$150 for gardening guides and FFGC 2021 Floral Design Calendars. Kimberly Porter inquired whether the Club received a return of its security deposit for Sarazen Park for the event on December 7, 2020. Annette had not yet received anything from Marco Island Civic Association (MICA). Kimberly will follow up with the MICA office to find out whether they simply return our check without negotiating it or whether they will deposit the CGC check and then write CGC a check in the same amount.
  - 3.5. Secretary –Vacant.
  - 3.6. Corresponding Secretary – Cristina Leske. In December, Cristina sent a sympathy card to Kathleen Hawryluk on the passing of her husband, a card that we are thinking of Janice Engel in her sorrow at the death of her friend, and a get well card to Linda Schwoeppe. Kimberly Porter reported that Janice Engel tripped and broke her kneecap and Cristina said she will send Janice a get well card. Cristina asked that any member who knows of the need for a card to be sent on behalf of the Club should Email her with the information needed.
4. Committee Reports: Sara asked that committee chairs send her written reports for the Monday, January 11 meeting, and she will type them on the Agenda to be sent to members prior to the meeting. The following reports were typed into the Agenda and were deemed presented to the Board as written. The committee reports marked with an asterisk were given orally at the Board Meeting.
- 4.1. Environment – Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw: Environmental news! Red Tide affecting Marco beach with dead fish and causing coughing; members, please do your part for our water quality and be sure your lawn care people not blowing grass clippings in canal; Ospreys nesting; burrowing owls showing up at nests; FWC working to protect the Kestrel hawks as they are declining. They like to nest in nesting box or dead trees., Try to provide on your landscapes. Our environment is an important part of Marco Island. Please do your part to help protect it.
  - 4.2. Facebook – Susan LaGrotta. Susan asked members to send her photos of floral designs, interesting garden events and plants, and other items to be placed on the CGC Facebook page.
  - 4.3. \*Flowers in Public Places- Connie Lowery, Marianne Foley. Marianne asked that we announce at the January 11 meeting the opportunity to donate floral designs and hopes we can encourage newer members to participate.
  - 4.4. \*Gardening Guide Marketing Committee – Linda Colombo. Linda reported that we sold about 5 Guides at the December get together. She plans to call a committee meeting later in the year, after the danger of Covid-19 transmission has lessened. Susan LaGrotta suggested that we put a flyer on our CGC Facebook page advertising the Guides, and Sara Wolf suggested that

we put an ad on our Calusa.org website. Sara reminded the Board that we still have a \$200 deposit with Naples Garden Club for a booth in the Vendor Tent at their 2020 Flower Show that was cancelled and that the deposit was applied to 2021. Sara will contact Naples Botanical Garden to inquire whether the deposit can be carried forward to 2022 if the Flower Show is not held in 2021.

- 4.5. Horticulture – Dale DeFeo. Dale will have a presentation on hibiscus for the January 11 meeting, and will send a handout to Marianne to distribute after the meeting.
- 4.6. \*Memorials & Markers – Linda Colombo. Linda reported that she inquired of the City of Marco Island whether the Blue Star Memorial will be affected by the construction planned for Veterans Park, and she was assured that the irrigation and the site will not be affected. Sara reported that the photo of the marker in Leigh Plummer Park showing Monna Hormel's recent work was sent to Ami Ruiz for the January Smoke Signals newsletter.
- 4.7. Newsletter – Ami Ruiz: Due date for copy for January's *Smoke Signals* is Tuesday January 5 or Wednesday, January 6.
- 4.8. \*Scholarships and Camperships – Marianne Foley. Marianne contacted Camp Wekiva and learned that the Camp will be in session in 2021. Marianne will contact the parents of our 2 camp scholarship recipients to determine whether the parents want their daughters to attend in 2021 due to Covid issues. Regarding Scholarships, Marianne has contacted the high school counselors and will send out a copy of the CGC Scholarship Application to all CGC members in the event they know of a high school senior who might want to apply for our scholarship. Sara Wolf will send an article to the two newspapers to publicize the opportunity.
- 4.9. \*Special Events – Kimberly Porter, Janice Engel. Sara thanked Kimberly Porter and Janice Engel for the very nice holiday get together in Sarazen Park on December 7. Kimberly reported that she was pleased that about 25 members were able to attend.
- 4.10. Website- Linda Colombo.
- 4.11. Workshops
  - \*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. Sara reported that Connie Lowery and Jackie Purvis will do a video floral design workshop to be presented to members by Zoom on Monday, January 18.
  - Horticulture - Donna Kay (2 workshops). Donna will present a horticulture workshop on Monday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m. The topic is Common Landscaping Mistakes.

## 5. Old Business

- 5.1. ByLaws Revision – not ready for presentation or voting. Dale DeFeo asked to review the final ByLaws and Standing Rules revisions prior to their being published. Sara said that she would do so, and that she had let the meetings drop because of other commitments, and because she

doesn't want to retype the whole document. Dale suggested that Sara contact Linda Spell who might have a digital file for the document.

- 5.2. Work Group to identify plants at Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary. Sara contacted Naples Native Plant society by Email for assistance as the Board had requested in the December meeting. Andee Nacarrato responded by Email and asked what is our timeline for the project and how much participation should a volunteer from NNP expect. Sara will contact Linda Turner to discuss these item. The next step will be to solicit interest from club members and then meet to determine how to accomplish the project.
- 5.3. Blue Zones Certification – Sharon Lewis proposes that Calusa Garden Club become a Blue Zones Certified club. She is willing to chair the project. Sara Wolf stated that the Board had voted in November not to pursue Blue Zones certification at that time due to other commitments, due to there not being a perfect match between the Club goals and Blue Zones goals, and due to lack of a Board member volunteering to shepherd the project. She then asked the Board to reconsider that decision since Sharon is willing to chair the project.

Dale DeFeo commented that she had contacted Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc. in order to determine whether these organizations with which Calusa Garden Club is affiliated have issued position statements on local garden clubs becoming Blue Zones certified. She reported that FFGC and NGC have not issued positions on the matter, but their boards and officers have discussed the matter and decided that these organizations will neither encourage nor discourage local clubs from pursuing pursue Blue Zones certification.

**Upon motion made duly made and seconded**, and approved by the Board members, it was agreed:

That Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island will pursue becoming a Blue Zones certified organization; and

That Sharon Lewis will chair the Blue Zones Certification Project and be the Club's Blue Zones Chairperson.

Sharon will present the information to the Membership Meeting on January 11.

6. New Business –
  - 6.1. Nominating Committee Appointment. Sara reported that the Bylaws require that a Nominating Committee be appointed by the Board, and that the committee present a slate of officers at the February meeting. Sara asked for volunteers from the Board and stated that 2 members may be from the Board and at least 1 member must be a non-Board member. Dale DeFeo, Parliamentarian, confirmed the makeup of the nominating committee. Sara asked for volunteers, and there being none, Dale DeFeo said she would serve if no one else volunteered. Sara asked Board members willing to serve to contact her after the meeting.

6.2. Florida Arbor Day: Linda Colombo. Friday January 15. Linda reported that the time for the Arbor Day tree planting has not yet been set because the City of Marco Island Parks and Recreation division has not yet confirmed the details for us. Linda has worked with Eric Jadaszewski to identify and source the purchase of 2 native trees, a Jamaican dogwood and a paradise tree. Linda will notify the Club as soon as a time for the tree planting ceremony has been set. The cost of the trees was \$250; Linda reminded us that the trees must be a certain height in addition to being Florida friendly or native in order to be planted in a City-owned park. Sara reminded the Board that one tree will be planted in memory of our members who passed away during the last 2 years and the other tree will be planted to continue the Calusa Garden Club tradition of planting native trees in Leigh Plummer Memorial Park.

6.3. Marco Town Center Planting/Garden Areas: Sharon Lewis reported that she and Monique Doyle met with Marco Town Center managers to discuss Calusa Garden Club landscaping and maintaining one or more “community park” areas. Sharon said that Brixmor Properties would pay for the plants that were chosen by the CGC committee, and that CGC would be expected to do some of the initial maintenance. However, Brixmor will have irrigation to the two planting areas. The two areas mentioned are those near the Margaritaville restaurant and by the Marco Brew Pub. Sharon said she had solicited members to be on the committee and had signed up herself, Monique Doyle, Eve Kubinsky, Linda Schwoeppe and Liz Haines.

**Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed:**

That Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island work with Brixmor Property Group to design and plant up to two small garden areas in Marco Town Center, and that the Club maintain the garden areas for a period of time to be mutually agreed between the Club and Brixmor.

Sue Oldershaw stated that she would like to work with the Marco Town Center garden committee.

7. Adjournment. President Sara Wolf asked for additional announcements from the Board, or additional business. No additional business or announcements were suggested, so Sara adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

**NEXT MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

- **Monday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Meeting on Zoom
- **Thursday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m.** – Master Gardeners Zoom presentations begin for the season. Members wishing to participate must register on Eventbrite prior to the sessions. The sessions are free.
- **Friday, January 15** – Florida Arbor Day. We will plant 2 trees at Leigh Plummer Park. Time to be announced. We hope all CGC members can attend to memorialize our members who have passed away, and to remember our founders who worked to establish Leigh Plummer Park.
- **Monday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m.**- Floral Design Workshop on Zoom
- **Monday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Board Meeting on Zoom
- **Monday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m.** – CGC Member Meeting on Zoom

Submitted by Sara Wolf, President and Secretary of the Meeting.  
Approved by the Board February 1, 2021.

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2021**

**I.** The meeting was called to order by President Sara Wolf at 11:16 a.m. who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II.** President declared a quorum present.

**III.** Minutes of the December 2020 meeting did not require approval as there was not a quorum at that meeting.

**IV. Officer Reports:**

**A. President, Sara Wolf:**

1. **Nominating Committee.** Sara asked that anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee please contact her right away. The committee must have at least one member who is not on the current board. Three people are needed.

2. **Tree Planting:** Friday, January 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Leigh Plummer Park. Two trees will be planted, one of which will be planted to commemorate our deceased members and one to continue the tradition of Calusa Garden Club's contribution of native plants to Leigh Plummer Park. Thanks to Linda Colombo for chairing this event. Please attend this important commemorative function.

3. **Volunteers Needed:** Two more volunteers are needed to take minutes for Board and General Member meetings. Each volunteer does one month – two meetings (Board and General meetings). Thanks go to Dale DeFeo for taking minutes of today's meeting and to Anne Gary for volunteering for the February meetings. Contact Sara.

4. **Holiday Gathering:** Thank you to Kim Porter and Janice Engel for arranging our December 7 holiday get together. Although we wore masks and practiced social distancing, we still enjoyed each other's company.

5. **Horticulture Workshop:** Thanks to Donna Kay for presenting a power point program on "Common Landscape Mistakes.

6. **Keeping in Touch:** The National Garden Clubs newsletter is available online now at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org), under the tab, "Member Resources."

7. **Master Gardeners:** Master Gardeners of Collier County is presenting 10 Zoom Educational Garden Workshops. The workshops will be online on Zoom beginning Thursday, January 14. Register by going to <https://2021gws.eventbrite.com>. You must register through Eventbrite in order to receive an invitation to attend the meeting.

**8. FFGC 2021 Opportunity Drawing Tickets:** There are 10 tickets left at \$2.00 each. Contact Sara at [sarawolf617@gmail.com](mailto:sarawolf617@gmail.com) or text or phone (513) 706.8681.

**B. First Vice President, Susan LaGrotta:** Speaker for this meeting is Eric Jadaszewski, owner of Everglades Native Designs, LLC. The topic is Landscaping with Native Plants.

**C. Second Vice President, Susan Neustadt:** CGC has 57 active members and 12 associate members. The Board approved the admission of Nancy Knight at the December 2 Board meeting and the admission of Peggy Anuta at the January 5 Board Meeting.

**D. Treasurer, Annette Kuhn:** Assistant Treasurer is Margie Bramel. Bank Balance is \$18,292.86. Only income was from the calendar sales.

**E. Recording Secretary:** Vacant. Sara Wolf took minutes of the December Board meeting, the December informal member meeting and the January Board meeting. Thank you, Dale DeFeo, for taking minutes of this January general member meeting.

**F. Corresponding Secretary, Christina Leske.** Sympathy card was sent to Kathleen Hawryluk of Naples Garden Club (well known by numerous CGC members) on the passing of her husband. Get-well cards were sent to Linda Schwoeppe and Janice Engel. A thinking-of-you card was sent to Janice Engel on the death of her close friend. If any member knows of the need for a card, please email Christina with the information needed at [mcleske@gmail.com](mailto:mcleske@gmail.com).

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS: (Note: All information provided beyond this point was written by Sara Wolf)**

**A. Butterfly Garden:** Susan LaGrotta. Next work session is Saturday, January 30 at 8:30 a.m.

**B. Environment:** Maria Lamb, Sue Oldershaw. Environmental News: Red Tide is affecting Marco beaches with dead fish and causing coughing. Members, please do your part for our water quality and be sure your lawn-care people are not blowing grass clippings in the canals. Ospreys are now nesting, and burrowing owls are showing up at nests. Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) is working to protect the Kestrel hawks, as they are declining. Kestrel hawks like to nest in nesting box or dead trees; try to provide a nesting box in your landscapes. Our environment is an important part of Marco Island. Please do your part to help protect it.

**C. Horticulture:** Dale DeFeo. Today's horticulture report is on hibiscus. Dale will send out an information sheet by e-bast after today's meeting.

**D. Newsletter:** Ami Ruiz. The December *Smoke Signals* newsletter was sent out Thursday, January 7. Due date for submissions to February newsletter is Wednesday, February 3. In this time of COVID-19 isolation, we would love to see your photos in our newsletter since we are not meeting in person! Ami's email address is [lucy14@hotmail.com](mailto:lucy14@hotmail.com).

**E. Publicity/Archives:** Sara Wolf. (Maria Lamb also writes for Coastal Breeze News). Sara did not submit any articles for publication in December. She is sending an article this week to publicize our college scholarship.



Coastal Breeze Gardening Column: Maria Lamb writes this with input from Calusa Garden Club. December column was about poinsettias. January column was published last week about hummingbirds.

**F. Scholarships and Camperships.** Marianne Foley.

1. CGC Scholarship applications will be offered in January. Marianne sent out the application to all members so that we can pass it on to students we know who may qualify for our \$1,000 college scholarships.

2. Camp Wekiva Camperships: Marianne will contact the parents of our two past recipients to Camp Wekiva scholarships to see whether the parents want the girls to attend Camp Wekiva this summer even though vaccines for COVID-19 may not be available to children by the dates they choose for their camp.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Blue Zones Project:**

1. The Blue Zones Project is expanding its scope to Marco Island and has approached CGC about becoming a Blue Zones organization and being Blue Zones certified. At our Nov. 2 Board meeting, after discussion, no one offered to chair the project for Calusa Garden Club to become a Blue Zones organization and the Board voted not to pursue Blue Zones certification at that time.

2. For information about Blue Zones Project in Southwest Florida, see <https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com>.

3. Recently, Sharon Lewis became interested in the Blue Zones Project and brought to the January Board meeting a proposal that our Club join the Blue Zones Project. She agreed to chair the effort. Sharon emphasized that the Blue Zones Project is focused on encouraging citizens in healthy living. The Southwest Florida Blue Zones Project is focused on encouraging citizens in healthy living. (Two-page Blue Zones proposal attached to these minutes).

**MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTINA LESKE AND SECONDED THAT – CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND APPLY TO BECOME BLUE ZONES CERTIFIED ORGANIZATION. Motion passed.**

**B. Project to Identify Plants in Marco island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary.**

Sara Wolf met with Linda Turner to further define this project. Those members previously indicating an interest in working to identify the plants in MINP are meeting on February 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Preserve on Tigertail Court. Contact Sara if you want to join the planning group. [Sarawolf617@gmail.com](mailto:Sarawolf617@gmail.com) or 513) 706-8681.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY DALE DeFEO AND SECONDED THAT – CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND PARTICIPATE IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF PLANTS IN THE MARCO ISLAND NATURE PRESERVE AND BIRD SANCTUARY. Motion passed.**

**VII. NEW BUSINESSES:**

**A. Marco Island Town Center Project:**

Brixmor Property Group, owners of Marco Town Center, approached the Club to participate in making two planting areas to beautify the Town Center. The Board approved the project at its January 2 meeting. Sharon Lewis and Monique Doyle have spoken with Brixmor representatives and formed a committee to plan the gardens, choose the plants and plant the gardens. Brixmor will pay for the plants, and it is Sharon's and Monique's understanding that Brixmor will provide irrigation for the areas. CGC may be asked to do some

maintenance work. Contact Sharon Lewis if you are interested in working on this project at [lewissharon9503@gmail.com](mailto:lewissharon9503@gmail.com) or 703) 625-8275.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY EVA KUBINSKY AND SECONDED THAT – CALUSA GARDEN CLUB PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT AT MARCO TOWN CENTER. Motion passed**

**VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:15 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by: **Dale W. DeFeo**  
Secretary pro tem

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

- 1. Friday, January 15, 11:00 a.m. Tree planting at Leigh Plummer Park. All members encouraged to come and wear masks.**
- 2. Monday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. Floral Design Workshop on Zoom. Connie Lowery is the presenter.**
- 3. Saturday, January 30, 8:30 a.m. Butterfly Garden Work Session**
- 4. Monday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. Calusa Board Meeting via Zoom.**
- 5. Tuesday, February 2, 2:00 p.m. Plant Identification in MINP Committee Meeting at MINP. Wear masks and bring a chair.**
- 6. Monday, February 8, 10:00 a.m. CGC General Member meeting via Zoom.**