

Approved December 2, 2024

CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 4th, 10:30 AM
Marco Island Public Library, Rose Hall

- 1) Call to Order at 10:29 a.m. Kimberly Porter, President
- 2) Quorum Established, Debbie Kuhlman, Recording Secretary
- 3) Kimberly Porter, President, thanked Susan LaGrotta for the beautiful celebration that was held for the Calusa Park Butterfly Garden 15th Anniversary.
- 4) **Minutes were approved for October 7th, 2024 Board Meeting** as amended with typos via motion from Nancy Adams, Sara Wolf seconded. Passed with 1 abstain and remaining ayes.
- 5) **Minutes were approved for May 6th, 2024 Board Meeting** via motion from Liz Haines, Nancy Adams seconded. Passed with all ayes. (no quorum at October meeting)
- 6) Officer reports
 - a) President – Kimberly Porter
 - i) There is incoming information from district and state garden club organizations to be shared; the president will work with Sara Wolf and Debbie Kuhlman to distribute it until a permanent position is filled for Communications Secretary.
 - ii) Suggestions made regarding filling the three open positions: Bring it up at the Member Meeting, check member skills and interests when applied, and to consider splitting duties of Communication and Technology Committee position, i.e. consider someone just for meeting AV coverage. Sue Oldershaw and president have been working with nominating committee.
 - iii) Kimberly noted the need to work on the club application process, to emphasize member responsibility to volunteer and work to engage members early on. Suggestion to add back question about ‘Which committee would you be on?’ and to consider willingness to volunteer when evaluating new applicants.
 - iv) In the interim, Susan LaGrotta and Sara Wolf have been covering FB and publicity. They will coordinate regarding District IX communications also. Urgent need to fill Communication Secretary to continue CGC news and Membership website.
 - b) First VP & Program Chair – Nancy Adams
 - i) Plant tags distributed to board members and will bring to General Meeting.
 - ii) November 18th General Meeting program by Connie Lowery on beginning floral designs. The hope is to also inspire early interest and engagement in floral design. Season of programs is nearly set once finalize March program with Audrina Flowers.
 - iii) Noted that Bella Florals of Marco has 50% off florals on Mondays for CGC members.
 - iv) Second VP & Membership Chair – **Confirmed Janet Watson as Membership and Second VP. All ayes.**
 - c) Treasurer & Finance Chair – Margie Bramel

- i) Margie reviewed the details of the Proposed Budget that the Finance Committee had worked on in May. Questions and answers were covered. \$30,550 is the projected income for the 2024-2025 season. The fiscal year (season) began on May 1st, 2024. Balance of operating funds as of May 1st of \$15,816.68 for a projected income plus operating fund total of \$46,366.68 in alignment with the \$46,366.68 total Budgeted Expenses shown on the spreadsheet.
 - ii) Some highlights of review, questions and answers:
 - (1) The Plant Sale will not have expected income from Charlette Roman's orchids as she will be selling only a few vanilla orchid cuttings. Kimberly will ask a member to work on an alternative source(s).
 - (2) Finance Committee suggestion regarding funds carried forward that CGC make donations to various organizations; could allow \$5,000 to give to charitable organizations. The committee also suggested a small 3 person group to study possible charities and then present to board in February. Non-profit rules don't allow carry over of funds. Needs more discussion and as funds belong to membership, need member input. Also some budgets could benefit from additional funds such as the community gardens Leigh Plummer and Calusa Park Butterfly Garden with recent storm maintenance and projected storm maintenance. As it is a proposed budget, it is recommended to be revisited at end of hurricane season.
 - (3) Discussion on Blue Star Marker maintenance and rules from National Garden Clubs, Inc. Per research by Nanette Baumgardner, the Blue Star Marker refurbishment needs to be done offsite only at allowed vendor (\$500 additional to budget to begin accumulating for future expense).
 - (4) Suggestion to change up meeting raffles some, i.e. bag in front of each item, purchase one nice item to supplement the inexpensive items.
 - (5) Discussion of earmarks versus budgeted funds and the need to timely submit all receipts and in-kind expenses. Reminded that if go over budget by 10% than bring it to the board.
 - iii) Due to time constraints, Sara Wolf made a **motion to accept proposed budget and table further discussion. 1 nay and remaining ayes and the motion to accept and table was passed.** Due to schedule, the meeting switched to topic under New Business, the Pioneer Garden update by Linda Turner.
 - iv) Following the Pioneer Garden discussion, Margie Bramel returned to complete Treasurer's report for the review Year to Date Financials from May 1 through October 28, 2024. YTD Income of \$789.97, YTD Expenses of \$3,796.77 (large portion was annual storage locker rent) leaves a negative YTD balance of \$3,006.80. Questions and answers followed.
 - d) Corresponding Secretary – Marianne Foley
 - i) October cards sent were a sympathy card to Sara Wolf, get well cards to Sue Oldershaw, Kathy Stark and a thank you to Linda Turner.
 - e) Communications Secretary – Vacant
- 7) Committee Reports:
- a) Civic Beautification

- (1) Butterfly Garden – Susan LaGrotta thanked the many board members who worked the past two years on restoring the butterfly garden. Susan plans to read all the names at the General meeting of everyone involved since the inception, 15 years ago. Eric Jadaszewski of Everglades Native Designs LLC offered to donate his time to create a site plan for the record. Susan met with new Marco Island BAC member, Linda Scherzinger, and stressed the need for funding from the city, especially for cleanup after major storms.
 - (2) Susan also thanked the members who helped with the refreshment and brochure table: Ellen Norton, Audrina Flowers, Liz Clancy, Linda Ariel, Claudia Bruni, Debra Kuhlman, Susan LaGrotta, and Kimberly Porter.
 - (3) Additionally thank you to Russ Colombo for re-supporting the teak bench and sprucing up the butterfly mosaic and Debbie and Roger Kuhlman for polishing and sealing the bronze Butterfly Garden marker.
- b) Communication and Technology
- i) Publicity – Sara Wolf
 - ii) Team of members volunteered over the summer to continue newsletter: Debbie Kuhlman, Susan Ridyard, and Sara Wolf. Sara has been doing the website but it is a critical need to fill the website chairman position. Susan Neustadt offered to help with the website. Another need is help with AV for meetings such as plug in the computer and turn on projector. Sara praised the work of Carol Donegan on her many articles. Still could use additional writers. Articles are sent to both papers but papers don't always choose to print all.
 - iii) Sara is starting publicity for Plant and Flower Arrangement Sale. Various media will be used including Chamber of Commerce e-mail, community online calendars, newspapers, FaceBook and flyers for members to distribute. Susan LaGrotta can help with a FB invite and possibly podcasts, i.e. Good Morning Marco. Sara brought up the need for special emails for one-time events.
- c) Community Education and Outreach – Marianne Foley
- i) Marianne thanked members who made gorgeous floral arrangements and thanks to Sara Wolf for delivering the 14 arrangements for the Little Pink Houses of Hope concert.
 - ii) Kathy McNabb gave an update on the Eco Tots. There was not a class in October due to school closure for the hurricane. Next classes are November 15th, December 30th and Yvette Benarroch and Gretchen Nash will be helping. A new group of children starts at the January 20th session. Typically, there are 15-18 first and second graders.
 - iii) **Junior Gardeners will be added to old business at December Board meeting.**
- d) Member Enrichment
- i) Gadabouts – Sue Oldershaw noted the November 15th trip to the new boardwalk at Big Cypress Bend, followed by Everglade City for lunch. A Christmas Gadabouts to Peace River Aglow, Botanical and Sculpture Garden on Friday evening, December 13th. Twelve tickets have been pre-purchased to secure a block (Jennifer Ferrier). Tickets are \$25 and the event is in Punta Gorda. Registrants will pay Jenn directly for tickets.
 - ii) Horticulture – Sue Oldershaw for Janet Altman and Marisa Iwicki

- (1) Working to get a workshop at LPP on bromeliads from Bonita Bromeliads.
Possibly November 14th or 21st
 - (2) Adding the weekly UF/IFAS Master Gardner lecture series (9), Thursday mornings at Collier County Library South Regional branch on Lely Cultural Way. Runs from January through March ending in a garden tour.
 - iii) Environmental – Nancy Reynolds absent
 - iv) Floral Design – Sue Oldershaw for Lindy Kowalczyk
 - (1) November Workshop - Table designs, make two, 1 for self, 1 for the plant sale.
 - e) Member Events
 - i) Holiday Luncheon – Kathy McNabb will be coordinating a separate e-mail for the event with Sara Wolf. She has 9 volunteers so is good with volunteers. The event is December 12th and registration will open November 18th.
 - ii) Hospitality- Kimberly Porter for Maura Kelley
 - (1) Thank you to Liz Clancy and hospitality for the successful October lunch. November 18th will be a 'Fall Tailgate' theme and Maura needs a couple more food donations. January theme is 'health nut'.
 - f) Ways & Means – Sara Wolf
 - i) Plant Sale thank you's to members who stepped up to chair the various sale areas: Plants- Nancy Adams, Sue Oldershaw and Donna Kay; Floral Arrangements- Marianne Foley; Vanilla orchids- Charlette Roman; Cashier- Margie Bramel; Marco Island Academy Key Club volunteers- Susan Neustadt and Prize wheel- Liz Haines.
 - ii) Put time on November General Meeting agenda for plant sale coverage plus bring signup sheets to General meeting.
- 8) Previous Business:
- a) none
- 9) New Business:
- i) Linda Turner gave a status and call for assistance on documenting the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) Pioneer Garden that was started several years ago between the garden club and MIHS. It is a 16' by 17' garden in the parking lot of MIHS. CGC member and past president, Dale DeFeo, was the original organizer. The Pioneer Garden has had banana trees, coonties, a lime tree, ornamental pineapples and sweet potato vines. It was based on historical pioneer plantings. It has a nice sign and mentions the CGC. More recently, water was added to the garden bed and there is renewed interest in cleaning it up, documenting the plants selection and history along with replacing plants that died such as the lime tree. MIHS is not looking for CGC to maintain it but for a plan and care guide so that MIHS volunteers could then take care of it per the plan. Kimberly Porter to meet with MIHS Executive Director Pat Rutledge and Pat's designee for this project, Rebecca. **Add as Old Business to Board meeting for December.**
 - ii) Also, Judy Sacher, Little Pink Houses of Hope, was deeply appreciative of the floral arrangements that members created.
- 10) Adjournment 12:33 p.m.