

Approved January 6, 2025

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 2nd, 10:30 AM
Marco Island Public Library, Rose Hall**

- 1) Called to Order at 10:29 a.m. Kimberly Porter, President
- 2) Quorum Established, Debbie Kuhlman, Recording Secretary
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Welcome and Thanksgiving gratitude from Kimberly Porter, President
- 5) **Approved Minutes of November 4th, Board Meeting** as amended with typos and correction to change National Guard to National Garden Clubs, Inc. Sara Wolf moved to approve, and Liz Haines seconded.
- 6) Officer reports
 - a) President – Kimberly Porter
 - i) January 13th speaker is Charlette Roman on water control.
 - (1) Discussion regarding bringing public attention to this important topic. Sara Wolf will get Susan Ridyard in touch with Carol Donegan who does pre-meeting publicity.
 - (2) A poster is needed for library door and Programs need to provide details to the library front desk any time an event is open to the public. Nancy Adams will create a poster to place on the library door and hand to front desk.
 - ii) Sara Wolf will cover recording duties for Debbie Kuhlman for the February 3rd board meeting as Debbie will be on travel.
 - b) First VP & Program Chair – Nancy Adams
 - i) December luncheon – Winter Garden care tips is the short topic coordinated by Audrina Flowers.
 - ii) Discussion occurred regarding the start of speaker at General meetings. The speaker has typically been scheduled for 1:00 PM. Lately the business meeting and lunch have wrapped up early, what are thoughts about moving up the speaker time or other ideas. General agreement to leave at 1:00 PM is as some expectation that meetings get longer as season goes on and gets busier. Suggestion from Membership chair that potential to fill time with a membership get to know you activity.
 - c) Second VP & Membership Chair – Janet Watson
 - i) Janet presented three prospective member applications to the board:
 1. Anne Sepe – sponsor Annette Kuhn
 2. Linda Scherzinger – sponsor Susan LaGrotta
 3. Tina Hatlestad – sponsor Marianne Foley**The three new members we approved.** Margie Bramel made the motion to accept the three new members, it was seconded by Nancy Adams.
 - ii) New member name tags will get ordered once Margie sends names to Janet.
 - iii) Margie and Kimberly will work on the plant gift for induction at December General meeting.

- d) Treasurer & Finance Chair – Margie Bramel
 - i) The balance of bank account is \$28,951.73 as of 11/29/2024 with \$16,863.84 towards the General Operating expenses.
 - ii) Cash flow report reviewed. Margie is watching cash flow as currently negative and usually by November it is positive.
 - iii) The Thanksgiving Plant and Flower Arrangement sale initial net profit showing \$2,699.96 with some expenses are still pending.
- e) Corresponding Secretary – Marianne Foley
 - i) Thank yous were sent to Connie Lowery and niece Alexandra for the November Floral Design program, Matt Bagley from Bonita Bromeliads, and Eryk Jadaszewski from Everglades Native Designs.
 - ii) Kimberly requested additional notes be sent to Al's Pals Alyson Richards and Pam Long for allowing the setup of Bonita Bromeliads sale stand and also thank yous for anyone who supplied a tent for the plant sale. Kimberly is providing names to Marianne.
- f) Communications Secretary – Vacant
 - i) Susan Ridyard will do general meeting AV and will work on the newsletter with Debbie Kuhlman for the next 3 months.

7) Committee Reports:

- a) Civic Beautification
 - i) Butterfly Garden – Susan LaGrotta Nancy- garden clean up this past weekend and garden looked good.
- b) Communication and Technology
 - i) Publicity – Sara Wolf
 - ii) Plant sale advertising done through a poster to chamber of commerce, local businesses (Diane Chestnut passed them out), submitted news story prior to plant sale. Will do additional press release for bromeliad and plant sale in future. Carole Donegan is doing January press release for January Member meeting on water.
 - iii) President noted feedback on Leigh Plummer Park from city of Marco Island personnel and is working an MOU like the MOU between city and Calusa Park Butterfly Garden. Kimberly plans to invite Marianne Foley and Sue Oldershaw to meet with city on the MOU.
- c) Community Education and Outreach – Marianne Foley
 - i) Eco Tots – Kathy McNabb
 - (1) Next club group size expected to be 25 students. This would make Eco Tots the largest club at Tommy Barfield Elementary. Some feedback received to always make sure that kids are digging in the dirt. With a larger group, will need more than 2 people to help. Currently looking for large containers, possibly for the kids to paint. Opi has a container. Also need cages for tomato plants. Discussion on campership awareness but deemed not the right age group as too young. Next project of ornamental pineapple starter plant for kids, need 15-20 bags to carry them home.
 - (2) December 13 Kathy needs coverage for two people.
- d) Member Enrichment
 - i) Gadabouts – Sue Oldershaw
 - (1) Peace River Garden Aglow – 2 tickets left to sell. Dec 13, Friday night.
 - (2) Native plant and succulent areas in north Fort Myers (Buckingham) January 23, Thursday. (Update- moved to January 24)

- ii) Horticulture – Sue Oldershaw for Marisa Iwicki and Janet Altman
 - (1) Bonita Bromeliads Matt was helpful
 - (2) Suggested the lecture series put on by UF/IFAS Collier Extension Master Gardeners, starts January 9, 2025, every Thursday morning.
 - (a) Can buy a ticket at the event or via Eventbrite. May organize a carpool.
 - iii) Environmental – Nancy Reynolds, Environmental hint, she'll be back for December.
 - iv) Floral Design – Sue Oldershaw for Lindy Kowalczyk
 - (1) No December workshop. January 27 workshop is on creative rhythmic designs.
 - e) Member Events
 - i) Holiday Luncheon – Kathy McNabb
 - (1) 38 people signed up, will extend registration until December 5th so will do a special email will Susan Ridyard.
 - (2) Dec 11 is the Friends of the Library Christmas floral workshop, register online to help. Opi will get emails for anyone who signs up to help via the CGC website.
 - (3) Per Kimberly the limit is 20 participants. John from the library has a list of 20 participants plus a waiting list.
 - ii) Meeting Hospitality – Kimberly for Maura Kelley, lunch organizing going well, call Maura if you need to know what you signed up for or what is needed.
 - f) Ways & Means – Sara Wolf
 - i) Sara Wolf sends thank you to all the husbands and sons who helped at the plant sale.
 - ii) Plant Sale preliminary summary and Sara's Comments: Last year's profit was around \$5,000, this year it is closer to \$2,000 so her recommendation is not having a plant sale next year. Discussion continued on plant sale results and the need for further board discussion and evaluation of what has worked and what hasn't along with data such as the number of items sold, average price and comparing this year to prior years. General comments: free plants from growers, in past the Poinsettias were a big money maker, donated hanging baskets one year were also good, calling each member for donations was divided up in prior years, native plants went quickly this year. Many people were looking for bromeliads, maybe accept more for the sale. Nancy Adams recommended future discussion based on data of what's successful. Sara appreciated feedback and withdrew her suggestion to not hold the sale next year. Also noted was a need to monitor the holding table prior to half-price sale. Suggestions to refresh and re-marked as there is also momentum for the 'annual' plant and arrangement sale. Pricing maybe needs to be revisited along with start and end times.
- 8) Previous Business:
- a) Junior Gardeners – Kimberly Porter visited the property considered for the Junior High gardeners. It was determined that the property needs substantial preparation and is not in a condition for any Junior Gardener activity at this time.
 - b) District 9 meeting looking for CGC to be the Fall 2026 meeting host. Kimberly and Sara discussed and passed on accepting.
 - c) Pioneer Garden – Kimberly Porter
 - i) Kimberly met with Rebecca Mazerowski, MIHS Museum Manager. They are interested in CGC becoming involved again. Rebecca sent a list of historically accurate plants and Kimberly plans to have our very own CGC Consulting review and make recommendations on a plan for updating the Pioneer Garden. MIHS Museum Director, Pat Rutledge, has

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funds to match what we spend on the Pioneer Garden. MIHS is part of Collier County Museum Consortium (CCMC). Kimberly expects that it would need to fall on CGC to maintain it and noted its size is manageable. Maybe speed with \$250 to obtain match and find one person to run such as Linda Turner who recently brought to discussion at November Board meeting. Develop plan and then propose to board.

- ii) Sara Wolf moved to proceed with the Pioneer Garden renovation at MIHS. Additional discussion and questions occurred. Pat Rutledge will cover the CGC consulting fee to work up a design. What is long term commitment to the project? Vote taken with 3 nays, remaining ayes and the motion to **Proceed with the Pioneer Garden renovation at MIHS was accepted**. Kimberly will approach the MIHS.

Note: Opi DeFalco left the meeting, quorum was not impacted.

- d) Budgetary discussions regarding surplus carryover funds
 - i) Margie suggested that she would solicit each chair for any budget adjustments, like what is done at year end budget planning. The Finance Committee is Margie Bramel, Janet Watson, Nancy Adams, Sara Wolf, and Kimberly Porter.
 - ii) All agreed on this process.
 - iii) Sara suggested to have the Finance Committee bring topic to January Board Meeting to be able to make donations by end of fiscal year.
 - iv) Discussion on negative cash flow (May 1 through Nov 30) not worried but need to be aware of.

9) New Business:

- a) Grants and Awards: We need a CGC member to be a district 9 grants and awards judge.
 - i) In the past club deemed not as critical.
 - ii) Is there a grant to do pioneer garden?
- b) The library holiday centerpiece project is December 22, 2024, from 1-3 at Marco Island Library Rose Hall. 20 participants. Update, Date changed to December 11.
 - i) Set up at noon. 6 volunteers needed. Contact Opi DeFalco or Kimberly Porter to volunteer.

10) Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.