

Approved March 3, 2025

CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 3rd, 10:30 a.m.
Marco Island Public Library, Rose Hall

- 1) 10:30 a.m. - call to Order by Kimberly Porter, President
- 2) Recording Secretary, Sara Wolf for Debbie Kuhlman, stated that there was no quorum of members for transaction of business at the meeting.
- 3) Welcome and Gratitude, Kimberly Porter, President
 - a) We presented a booth at Marco Island Historical Society Pineapple Festival February 1. About 400-500 people attended. We sold 6 Gardening Guides and received \$10.00 in donations, and passed out many Calusa Garden Club rack cards with information about our club.
- 4) Corrections to Minutes of January 6th Board Meeting were taken. Due to lack of quorum, the Minutes were not approved and will be presented again at the March Board meeting.
- 5) Officer reports
 - a) President – Kimberly Porter
 - b) First VP & Program Chair – Nancy Adams
 - i) Donna Kay and Sue Oldershaw will speak on Invasive Plants and Aggressive Plants that should be avoided in Marco Island landscapes.
 - c) Second VP & Membership Chair – Janet Watson
 - i) Janet asked the Board to approve Laura Furlong's meeting absences as approved absences due to Laura attending to her mother who is ill.
 - ii) Janet presented 5 members for approval:
 - (1) Barbara Perez
 - (2) Monica Ninker
 - (3) Susan D. Luccisano
 - (4) Maria Tela
 - (5) Elizabeth Horvath
 - iii) Janet named these prospective members' sponsors and solicited sponsors for applicants who did not have 2.
 - iv) Because there was no quorum, the Board agreed that the applicants be presented to the Board by Email and that votes be solicited by Email, as permitted in the Bylaws. The Bylaws require that applicants for membership be approved by the Board prior to being inducted as members.
 - d) Treasurer & Finance Chair – Margie Bramel
 - i) Dues notices will be sent out March 1 and dues are due by April 1. Members may combine their dues payments with payment for the April luncheon.
 - ii) The club paid sales tax to the state of Florida of only \$38.00 because our sales tax bill was \$252.28 but we had a credit memo from the State of \$214.28 due to prior overpayment of sales tax by a prior officer.

- e) Corresponding Secretary – Marianne Foley
 - i) Thank you notes were sent to Denise Jeffries of Bella Florals and Charlette Roman. Sympathy card was sent to Nanette Baumgardner. A “Sorry you are ill” card was sent to Sandy Wallen and Marianne will send a card to Laura Furlong to express sorrow that Laura’s mother is ill.
 - ii) Kimberly Porter requested that a thank you note be sent to a member who wants to remain anonymous for a \$600 donation to the Club. Sara Wolf is to send the donor a letter that certifies the 501(c)3 status of the Club and documents the donation for the donor’s income tax filings.
 - f) Communications Secretary – Vacant
- 6) Committee Reports:
- a) Civic Beautification
 - i) Butterfly Garden budget update – Susan LaGrotta. See below under New Business.
 - b) Communication and Technology
 - i) Publicity – Sara Wolf – Thanked Carol Donegan for the press release regarding the speakers for Monday’s meeting.
 - c) Community Education and Outreach – Marianne Foley
 - i) Eco Tots – Kathy McNabb – Next meeting is February 21, when the class will be about succulents.
 - d) Member Enrichment
 - i) Gadabouts – Sue Oldershaw. President Kimberly Porter referred the Board to the weekly newsletter for information about the next gadabout.
 - ii) Horticulture – Marisa Iwicki will make a presentation at the Monday, February 10 member meeting.
 - iii) Environmental – Nancy Reynolds sent a report about iguanas on Marco Island that will be read by Susan Ridyard at the Monday, February 10 member meeting.
 - iv) Floral Design – President Kimberly Porter read a note from Lindy Kowalczyk that the floral design workshop on Monday, February 17 would be on miniature floral designs.
 - e) Member Events
 - i) Spring Luncheon – Audrina Flowers – Audrina announced that the Spring Luncheon and installation of officers would be at the Marco Island Yacht Club on April 17 from 11:30 to 3:00.
 - f) Ways & Means – Sara Wolf - Sara reported that there would not be a Home Garden Tour in 2025. Board members suggested that we ask new members to buy 5 gardening Guides for \$25 and they can give them away for hostess and welcome gifts.
- 7) Previous Business:
- a) Nominating Committee 2025-27 BOD slate – Linda Colombo. Linda presented the slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee of herself, Audrina Flowers and Maura Kelley:
 - i) President – Sara Wolf
 - ii) First Vice President and Program Chairman -Diane Chestnut

- iii) Second Vice President and Membership Chairman- Valerie Aguis
 - iv) Treasurer – Margie Bramel
 - v) Assistant Treasurer- Nancy Adams
 - vi) Secretary – Nancy Reynolds (1 month in the fall) and Jane Gregory (January -April).
 - vii) Corresponding Secretary – Ann Sepe
 - viii) Communications Secretary – Susan Neustadt.
- b) Kimberly Porter, President, stated that the slate was incomplete as presented, and that there was no quorum, and therefore the slate should be presented at the March Board meeting, and asked the Nominating Committee to continue their work.
- 8) New Business:
- a) Audrina Flowers presented a project to the Board, asking for comment. Audrina proposed that club members make centerpieces for the Rotary Spirit Awards Gala that would be auctioned off to the Gala attendees. The Rotary Club and our club would split the proceeds of the auction. President Porter suggested that Audrina discuss the idea with her later, and then stated that since there was no quorum, the proposal must be presented at the March meeting.
 - b) Kimberly Porter for Susan LaGrotta requested the Board to approve adding additional \$400 to the budget allocation for 2024-2025 for the Butterfly Garden. Kimberly noted that the Butterfly Garden \$400 budget for 2023-2024 was not spent. The Standing Rules state that any budget requests in excess of 10% of the function's budget be approved by the Board. Because there was no quorum, the board by consensus agreed that the issue would be sent to the Board by Email and votes would be received by Email, as permitted in the Bylaws.
 - c) Marco In Bloom – Information about applying or nominating a home garden for awards by Marco in Bloom will be presented in the weekly newsletter.
 - d) Bella Florals Valentine Day flower prep. The weekly newsletter will contain a request by Bella Florals that members help with flower preparation on Sunday, February 9, Monday, February 10 and Tuesday, February 11. Participants will be given a \$50 gift card.
- 9) Adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Approved by: Kimberly Porter, President

Respectfully submitted, Sara Wolf, Acting Secretary for Debra Kuhlman, Recording Secretary