

**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 3rd, 2025, 10:30 AM
Marco Island Public Library, Rose Hall**

- 1) Call to Order by Liz Papagiannis, Parliamentarian, for President Kimberly Porter who was absent, at 10:30 a.m. Liz asked for all cell phones to be silenced.
- 2) Quorum Established, Recording Secretary, Sara Wolf for Debbie Kuhlman.

First Vice President Nancy Adams, acting for the President who was absent, appointed Susan Neustadt Chairman of the Communications and Technology Committee, thereby achieving quorum, which consists of 6 committee chairpersons along with 3 officers and 1 advisory council member.

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Welcome by Liz Papagiannis
- 5) Minutes Approval: Sara Wolf for Debbie Kuhlman –

Minutes of January 6th Board meeting were approved. Minutes of February 3rd Board meeting were corrected by moving item 5 d iii from D, Treasurer's Report, to Item 8 b, New Business, then approved with the correction.

6) Officer Reports

- President – Liz Papagiannis directed the Board's attention to the two upcoming meetings listed below.
 - Linda Colombo asked that the Board clarify what expenses are covered by the Club when members attend a convention. Sara Wolf responded that the club covers registration fees, hotel expenses, meal expenses and gas reimbursement (transportation). The Bylaws and Standing rules were consulted and the phrase "registration and reasonable expenses" was read from the Standing Rules, Section A, paragraph 3. The suggestion was made that this phrase be further defined. No Board action was taken.
 - 1. Announcement: Tuesday, March 11 to Thursday, March 13: Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention in Valdosta, Georgia
 - 2. Announcement: Monday, April 7 to Thursday, April 10: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Calusa Garden Club sends 2 delegates to the FFGC Convention.
- The order of the officer reports was changed to accommodate a request; the Second VP and Membership Chair report was given before the First VP and Program Chair's report.
- Second VP & Membership Chair – Sue Oldershaw reported for Janet Watson
 - i) Two applicants – Heidi Vollmer and Susan Ray. Neither applicant had listed sponsors.
 - (1) A brief discussion followed about how to recruit sponsors and increase sponsor responsibility for their sponsored applicant. No action was taken.

- (2) Liz Papagiannis and Sara Wolf volunteered to sponsor Heidi Vollmer; Sue Oldershaw and Lindy Kowalczyk volunteered to sponsor Susan Ray.
 - (3) These applicants will attend their second meeting on March 10 and will be inducted as members.
 - (4) **Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board members approved the admission of Heidi Vollmer and Susan Ray as members of the Calusa Garden Club.**
 - ii) New member inductions at March 10 Member meeting will include Barbara Perez (approved in prior BOD vote).
 - iii) March birthdays- Will be announced at the March 10 meeting
 - iv) Membership dues:
 - (1) Active is \$60 per member, \$63 if pay online
 - (2) Associate is \$70 per member, \$73 if pay online
 - First VP & Program Chair – Nancy Adams
 - Speaker for March 10 meeting is Rebecca Mazeroski, Director of Marco Island Historical Museum, on the topic of Marco Island Pioneer Gardens
 - Treasurer & Finance Chair – Margie Bramel
 - i) Budget report- Margie directed the members to her full report that was distributed with the Board meeting materials prior to the meeting. She reported that about \$25,000 was in the club checking account, including about \$13,000 of general operating funds and about \$10,000 as the operating reserve. There is \$278 remaining in earmarked funds for Lee Plummer Park, and about \$1,300 remaining in the Blue Star Marker earmarked funds.
 - ii) Update on Membership Dues paid.
 - (1) About 10 members have paid their dues to date. Dues reminders went out March 1 by Email and dues are late on April 1.
 - (2) Margie asked that a dues reminder be included in the weekly Email, and that a second Email be sent to the members to outline the methods and amounts of payments and to include Margie’s address for mailing checks. Sara Wolf agreed to send that blanket Email.
 - Corresponding Secretary – Marianne Foley –
 - i) A get-well card was sent to Kimberly Porter and a get well card would be sent shortly to Barbara Messner who had recently had a fall.
 - Communications Secretary – Vacant
- 7) Committee Reports:
- Civic Beautification
 - i) Butterfly Garden– Susan LaGrotta-
 - (1) Nancy Adams announced for Susan, who was absent, that a butterfly garden cleanup was scheduled for Saturday, March 29 at 8:30 a.m.
 - ii) Leigh Plummer Park –
 - (1) Marianne Foley reported that the parking lot at Leigh Plummer Park has been dug up and she fears that the trees will be affected by the disturbance of their roots.
 - Communication and Technology

- i) Publicity report – Sara Wolf
 - Two press releases were sent in February, one for the Club scholarships and one for the speaker for the March 10 meeting.
- Community Education and Outreach – Marianne Foley
 - i) Eco Tots – Kathy McNabb –
 - The Eco Tots succulent project in February went well.
 - ii) Leadership Day Celebration at Tommy Barfield Elementary School – Kathy McNabb--
 - The principal of Tommie Barfield asked Kathy and CGC to assist in campus beautification and Kathy will lead a planting group of CGC members and parents in planting a few plants around the school entrance on Tuesday March 4 in preparation for the Leadership Day celebration.
- Member Enrichment
 - i) Gadabouts – Sue Oldershaw
 - Next Gadabout Friday March 14th, Naples Garden Club Flower Show at Naples Botanical Garden.
 - Second Gadabout in March: March 31st; Lyle Bowen’s home bromeliad garden in Fort Myers.
 - ii) Horticulture - Sue Oldershaw-
 - Next Horticulture workshop will be a tour of Janet Altman’s yard focusing on native plants.
 - Master Gardeners UF/IFAS lecture will be on planting for birds
 - iii) Environmental -Sue Oldershaw -
 - Nancy Reynolds will report on Marco Island dolphins.
 - iv) Floral Design – Lindy Kowalczyk –
 - Next workshop will be a cascade design on March 31st.
- Member Events
 - i) Spring Luncheon – Audrina Flowers
 - Luncheon cost will be \$20 and luncheon will be held at Nancy Adams’ home. Tables and chairs will be rented. Sandwiches from Big Al’s plus committee members will prepare side dishes. Theme is still “Island Style.”
 - Audrina explained that the Yacht Club charges were too high to make the meal price affordable. So this change was made.
 - Board members questioned the location, citing parking issues, extra work to set up tables and chairs, extra work to make and serve food.
 - Board members said \$20 was not correct estimate for member ticket cost because the table and chair rental, any linen or smallware rental, or other costs would have to be added to the food price. Discussed budget.
 - Audrina was not sure of her budget. Margie stated the budget is \$2,500 for meals and \$300 for centerpieces or other decorations.
 - Nancy Adams stated that her home was nearly empty of furniture and that parking of 25 cars would be no problem. Suggested we ask members to carpool. Stated she is happy to be hosting and it will be a nice event.
 - Board members generally discussed the change and urged Audrina to consider alternate venues. Suggestions included Isles of Capri Community Center, Methodist Church, Lutheran Church.

- Discussion terminated with Audrina agreeing to check alternate venues.
- Ways & Means – Sara Wolf
 - i) Ways & Means report – Sip and Shop Event at J.McLaughlin on Tuesday, March 11 from 10:00 -6:00; CGC table will be there from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Previous Business:

- Nominating Committee 2025-26 BOD slate – Linda Colombo
 - i) Linda Colombo presented the nominated slate to the Board:
2025-2027 Slate of Officers
President – Linda Colombo
First VP/ Programs – Diane Chestnut
Second VP/ Membership – Valerie Aguis
Treasurer – Margie Bramel
Assistant Treasurer – Nancy Adams
Recording Secretary – Ann Sepe
Corresponding Secretary – Kimberly Porter
Communications Secretary – Susan Neustadt
- Audrina Flowers - re-present the possible shared fundraiser with the Rotary Club since no quorum at February Board Meeting.
 - i) Audrina passed out a proposal entitled “Calusa Garden Club Rotary Collaboration” for the Rotary Spirit Awards Gala to be held in April.
 - ii) She has received pledges for donations from local merchants to pay for some of the cost of flowers. See proposal attached.
 - iii) Rotary Club has purchased 20 lucite floral stands and 20 florist green plastic containers for the Gala.
 - iv) Audrina showed the Board the lucite stands and containers.
 - v) Audrina suggested the Club make 20 arrangements to be auctioned to the Gala attendees ahead of time on an online auction website. Rotary Club and CCG will split the auction proceeds. Audrina suggested the arrangements be made at least 1 or 2 days ahead of time so she can put them on the online auction website.
 - vi) Board members discussed problems with the proposal: Flowers of this quality and number are very expensive; the Club has no budget allocated for this project; no location big enough to make 20 arrangements; transportation of arrangements is difficult and they fall apart; no refrigeration for arrangements if made in advance; club members would have to go to the Gala to set up the arrangements and repair them; the arrangements require both flowers and vegetables; the arrangements will wilt if made before the day of the Gala.
 - vii) Board members asked if Island Country Club would give space for CGC members to make the floral designs at the country club the day of the event. Lindy Kowalczyk and Sue Oldershaw said they would be in favor of participating if that would be permitted. Lindy, Sue and Marianne said they could get the 20 arrangements made in one day, with help from other members, if the CGC members could do the work at the country club.
 - viii) Audrina said she would work toward that goal.

- ix) Upon motion made and seconded, after additional discussion and based on the understanding that floral designs could be made the day of the event at Island Country Club and would not have to be transported, the motion was passed that the club would participate in the Rotary Spirit Awards Gala by making 20 floral and vegetable arrangements to be auctioned to attendees, and the proceeds of the auction of the floral arrangements would be split 50-50 between the Rotary and the Club.
- Margie Bramel – Donations
 - i) Margie referred to the \$5,000 in our budget for donations to other non-profits.
 - ii) She referred to the Board decision to send \$800 to Camp Wekiva if we received no applications for camperships. Sara Wolf reported that although she had said she would send publicity for Camp Wekiva to the local schools, she had not done so.
 - iii) Margie said she would send \$800 check to Camp Wekiva as a donation from our Club. The Board agreed by consensus.
 - iv) Margie suggested that the money we spend on plants for the Pioneer Garden at Marco Island Historical Museum be accounted for in the budget as a donation to a nonprofit, and that the money we spend on the Rotary Spirit Awards Gala (if any) also be accounted for as a donation to a nonprofit.

New Business:

- Marco Nature Night
 - Discussed whether to have a table and solicit persons to attend and advertise our club.
 - Event is Wednesday March 19th from 5pm-7pm at the Marco Island Community Room
 - Nancy Adams and Kathy McNabb agreed to staff the table at the Marco Island Nature Night.
 - Sara Wolf agreed to contact the chairman of Marco Nature Night to make sure we have a table. Sara Wolf also agreed to make handouts for the CGC table. Board members suggested Butterfly Garden and Leigh Plummer Park flyers. Sara suggested the flyers from Sue Oldershaw and Donna Kay's presentation on Marco Native Florida and Florida-Friendly Landscaping. We will also display our CGC rack cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVED: Nancy Adams, First Vice-President acting for the President
Respectfully submitted: Sara Wolf, acting for the Secretary