

Victoria Gardens Women's Club
Board of Directors Meeting
October 6, 2022

Present: Laura Blackburn, Ruth Chrismore, Barbara Solis, Rosie McKenna,
Lynn Reim, Connie Hampton, Elise Saunders, Nancy Greenfield,
Susan McMahon, Joan Neumann, Darlene Cross

Absent: Patricia Ribera

- I Shirt & Tribute Card Promotion
Laura will email blast availability of WC t-shirts and tribute cards to all members. Promotion of items will also be advertised in newsletter.
- II Moment of Recognition candidates selected: October = Renee,
November = Jackie and December = Cheryl
- III October Event Status – Lynn discussed room set-up of event and that all invited charities are ready. There will be five guests from the charities attending the event. Laura will email a last call for registration later today.
- IV Development Director Update – Darlene created content for potential sponsors ready to be emailed: Beacon Center Informational Sheet, Sponsorship Tiers and Sign-up Payment Form. She met with Julie to get names of vendors that the clubhouse uses. She also reached out to many local businesses and will follow-up. Darlene asked that board members let her know of any potential sponsor contacts that she can call. She is also looking for luxury items to be used as prizes and discussed bundling them to increase their value.
- V Leadership Development – Rosie announced that Patricia Ribera is unable to continue as Board Secretary as she has a conflict with the monthly meeting dates. She asked for help in finding a suitable candidate to fill the position. The Sunshine Connection logo was created by Joan. Rosie asked board members to let her know of any member that may need cheering up with a visit or extra help with an errand or any other service.
- VI Membership – Connie reported that there are 25 new members. Current membership number stands at 221. All should review list of members that have not renewed. Remind people that you know about paying their membership dues. If you know of someone that is not rejoining, let Laura know so that their name may be removed from email blast list. Connie will add a reminder to the 'thank you' note that t-shirts and tribute cards are available for sale. Connie passed around a list of members sorted by street addresses to help identify block captains.
- VII. Website – Laura condensed website pages. Review website and let Laura know if something is in the wrong place or needs to be added. It was suggested that the logos of the charities be added.

- VIII. Special Events – Elise reported that the Mah Jongg Madness Party registration flyer was created and that the save the date Casino flyer appeared in the newsletter.
- IX Charity Director – Susan reported that the Beacon Breakfast was postponed until October 18th due to the hurricane. Susan is also seeking one question for the October 12th panelists to answer from each board member. All board attendees should bring one bag of candy for the children’s ‘Trunk or Treat’ event at the Beacon Center. The VGWC sponsored 20 Halloween costumes for permanent storage at the Beacon Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Membership Report – Connie Hampton

- Accepting more membership applications
- Selling T-Shirts (Thanks to Lindy Waters)
- Sending “Thank You” emails to members as they join or renew
- 25 new members
- More snowbirds returning that we hope to sign up.
- Working with Friendship Branch Committee to get all new members connected to a branch.
- Presenting a document that shows all streets in the Gardens and the members that live on those streets. (Renewed and not Renewed). Looking for street captains.
- Purchasing name tags for all new members in a timely manner.
- Connecting with Branch Leaders to get their members their new name tags.

Special Events Report – Elise Saunders

Maj Jongg Madness Event hosted by Bonnie Friedman will be held December 5th. A meeting was held October 3rd with lots of fun and surprises created by her committee.

Casino Party flyers were given out at the September Luncheon. Committees are being formed to get this event, being held February 11, 2023, a night to remember. Darlene Cross is working on Sponsorships and Prizes.

VGWC Program Committee – Lynn Reim

The October 12 program is our first attempt at having an afternoon time slot with appetizers and sangria. Last all-call for sign-ups will be Friday, October 7. Speakers from 4 of our charities will be presenting a short talk on their specific needs.

November 9 menu has been chosen, decorations planned and our speaker Joshua Freitas from Certus will be speaking on “Cognitive Tips for Women.”

December 14 “Holiday Luncheon” with 4 vendors coming to sell their goods (clothes, accessories, jewelry and pet products) Entertainment provided by “Millenium Musicians” from a local elementary school.

Publicity Director – Joan Neumann

Updated 2022-23 Events Calendar

Casino Night Save The Date flyer created

Mah Jongg Madness Party – save the date flyer created

Sponsorship Tiers, Sponsor Payment Form and Beacon Center Information Sheet created

Sales Development Letterhead template created

October 12th Fiesta Program flyer created

Sunshine Connection logo created

Friendship Branch – Nancy Greenfield

October board report this month has been very busy for our committee. The four of us met to plan our leader's meeting agenda. On September 16, twenty branch leaders or representatives of a branch met to formulate plans for the fall.

New things introduced to them were:

a branch calendar listing all branch activities

the concept of each branch "adopting a charity"

the sunshine connection

Many thanks to: Susan McMahon for the wonderful handouts about our charities. Lori Sue Herrscher and Rosie McKenna for speaking at the branch leader's meeting. Darlene Cross and Michele Borowsky for being such valuable members of our team. Board buddies we are working with Connie Hampton to ensure that our branch members are also women's club members and vice versa.

Development Director's Report – Darlene Cross

- Telephone meeting with Romano G. to review the Casino Night project. Received excellent tips from him.
- Created content for 3 forms and Joan created graphics for all. Will be used for appointments with potential sponsors for Casino Night.
- Met with Julie Maurer to obtain some leads on potential sponsors. She gave some good leads.
- Continue to build database of potential sponsors.
- Began calling potential sponsors with positive results.
- Lining up face-to-face appointments.

Charitable Action Committee – Susan McMahon

BOD Action Items:

1. Beacon Unity Breakfast – 10/18 7:30 a.m. Invite
2. Suggested questions for Charity Panel participants – please submit one suggestion
3. Need Halloween candy donated for Beacon Center Trunk or Treat

Charitable Action Committee

- i. Stetson Ukranian Initiative**
 - a. Stetson invited us to attend reception to meet the students and professor. Postponed due to Hurricane. Waiting on new date.
- ii. Charitable Action Relationship Managers**
 - a. Each charity now has a VGWC Relationship Manager assigned to them. This person will stay closely connected with the agency contacts and communicate on-going needs and opportunities to volunteer to the membership at large. I want to personally thank these individuals for their commitment and time:
 - b. The Beacon Center – Elaine Kozakis and Joan Kinsey
 - c. Annual Giving Tree Project – Cheryl Sullivan
 - d. Council on Aging of Volusia County – Ellen Haynes
 - e. The Neighborhood Center – Carol Mitchell and Cindy Netherton
 - f. Food Brings Hope – Marilyn Harraman
 - g. Food Drive and Shred Event – Judy Agamie
- iii. Agency Updates**
 - a. Council on Aging of Volusia County (COA)**
 - i. Purchased four Fidget Blankets to be delivered at the October charity panel.
 - b. Family Renew**
 - i. Met with Don Lajoie and Mike Dungan, Men’s Club, at Family Renew to assess the needs. Men are taking suggestions back to their Exec committee this week for a final approval. Plan to install playset, renovate fencing, renovate or replace patio furniture, do a complete clean-up of area and coordinate with Master Gardener’s on placement and sustainability garden.
 - c. Neighborhood Center**
 - i. In need of individual size personal hygiene products for individuals who take advantage of the monthly “shower program” at the bridge.
 - d. The Beacon Center**
 - i. Annual Unity Breakfast sponsor at \$2500. Breakfast re-scheduled to October 18, 7:30 a.m. at the Hard Rock Hotel. VGWC has a table of eight if interested in attending.
 - ii. Beacon Halloween Trunk or Treat – purchased 25 Halloween costumes to be kept as a permanent supply for children residing at Beacon Center. Approximate cost \$500. Collecting donations of Halloween candy to support this initiative
 - e. Food Brings Hope**
 - i. Nothing to report. Attending the panel and will begin to learn more about their needs.
- iv. In-Kind Donations Update**
 - a. Branches were asked to “Adopt a Charity” this year. In turn, the committee will provide them a suggested list of in-kind items that benefit that charity and set-up a donation schedule similar to last year.
 - b. If any member is interested in donating in-kind items and not in a branch please reach out to Susan McMahon to learn more.