

Victoria Gardens Women's Club  
Board Meeting  
November 4, 2024

Present: Susan McMahon, Ruth Chrismore, Gail Thomas, Joan Neumann, Cindee Cullingford, Laura Blackburn, Lindy Waters, Patricia Martuscello

Program Update:

- Ruth reported that the November Fashion Show is all set. Shopping begins at 10:30 AM, followed by the fashion show, then lunch. There will be bottles of wine for door prizes.
- December's luncheon will have craft vendors set up in the hall for shopping. Entertainment for the luncheon is being finalized. School choral groups are being asked to perform. Lunch will be a traditional turkey dinner for \$25.00 per person. A vegetarian option will also be provided.

Fundraising Events:

- Susan reported on Casino Night. Prize patrol is very busy, packages for body and soul, golf and restaurants are being created. Lottery tickets are slow to be coming in for the boards. It was mentioned that people are probably waiting to purchase them as the event gets closer. Pre-sale tickets for Casino Night go on sale in December. If you get your tickets early you get a bonus card for 2,500 chips. Tickets are \$85.00. The committee is looking to add two more tables in the hallway, one Roulette and a Craps table. These will be easily accessible for those who need it. Ex: set the tables lower. The décor is all set, the committee is repurposing what we used last year,
- Mahjong is February 11, 2025, and it is SOLD OUT. A waitlist has been started.

### Financial Update:

- Gail reported October's revenue topped \$13,700. We received \$3,920 for luncheons- both for October and the November fashion show luncheon. Mahjong receipts totaled \$4,075. And we received our first Casino sponsorship check in the amount of \$5,000.
- Expenses for October were a little over 2,200. This gave us a "Revenue over Expense" amount of almost \$11,500 for the month and a YTD amount of \$2,617.
- As discussed last month, the balance of \$386.41 not spent on the Neighborhood Center Family Emergency Shelter was moved to the Operating fund.
- Gail also checked on the \$500 gift cards. Four of the five cards stated no expiration date. She did not check the balance on the fifth card, a Vanilla Visa Card because she would have had to open the gift card packaging to get the 3-digit code. It did state that there were no fees after purchasing. These cards were purchased in October 2022. She recommended that we start using them for purchases.
- Our ending cash balance for October was \$36,765.42 with \$5,761.32 in temporarily restricted funds. That leaves us with \$31,004.10 in Operating Funds.

### Friendship Branch Update:

- Lindy responded to Branch Leaders regarding concerns shared with her casually. First, to address the need to be mindful of cultural differences among our membership during the holiday season. Here in the Gardens, residents celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Winter Solstice, and others. Also, we need to be mindful of our friends that may be feeling lonely or sad and may not be interested in celebrating with their branch during this time of the year.

- Secondly, there has been a change in Karla Johnson's Dogwood Branch. Karla 's impending move to Virginia resulted in Karla appointing two members of her branch to take over leadership duties. A clash of opinions regarding charity work, unforeseen changes in life circumstances, and fluctuating member support, left the Dogwood branch without leaders and a path forward. Lindy arranged for an informal meeting between herself, her team, and Dogwood Branch members on Nov. 14, 2024, at 10:00, to share insights, ideas, and feedback. Our goal is to assess the status of the Dogwood Branch membership and hopefully find leaders who are willing and able to guide the Dogwood Branch forward.

#### Membership:

- Cindee is planning a New Membership Tea in January.
- Name tags will be in for the new members soon.
- Our VGWC shirt inventory is low. A discussion was had regarding finding a new vendor such as Lands' End. Cindee will also explore the possibility of other vendors. It was suggested that we might also sell hats, visors, and tote bags.
- More discussion on this will follow.

#### Charitable Action:

- The Giving Tree project is ready to start. Susan reported that we are just waiting for information from the Begin Again Hospice Group. There are many foster children involved as well as the Neighborhood Center Bridge and The Emergency Shelter. The adults at The Emergency Shelter will get a gift that they can take with them when they leave. The trees will be full with gift tags for 250-300 adults and children.
- The Thanksgiving Food Drive is a community event with Lifestyles and is well under way.

- The Dog Parade on October 27<sup>th</sup> was again a huge success. It was very well attended.
- Empty Bowls is November 14<sup>th</sup> at DeLand High School. The VGWC has ten tickets. We were a \$2,500.00 sponsor of the event.

Make A Difference:

- November's recipient will be Janice Kiefer.
- December's recipient will be Lynn Reim

Technology Update:

- Laura reported that the website and membership lists are up to date.
- Sign up for Casino Night will start December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 AM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Martuscello  
Recording Secretary  
VGWC

Publicity Directors Report: Joan Neumann

Created the following flyers:

Save The Date Casino  
Casino Sponsorship  
Giving Tree  
Dog Parade  
Lunch - League of Women Voters  
Fashion Show  
Mah Jong Scoresheet & Mah Jong Rules of Play

VGWC 2024-25 Programs  
November Board Report 2024

- July 24, 2024 Evening Community Thank You event – Magnolia Ballroom  
3-6 pm Music/Light Snacks; awaiting pricing info from Bill/Rene
- Sept. 11, 2024 Luncheon 11- 1;30 John Brown Orlando News Anchor/Author working  
on menu and pricing info from Bill/Rene
- October 16, 2024 Volusia County League of Women Voters. Nicky Junkins speaker  
on the long history of women obtaining the right to vote and the  
importance of women exercising those rights. Menu is appetizer of  
pita chips and humus and choice of salad with tuna, chicken or  
cottage cheese. Tickets will sell for \$20
- November 13, 2024 Fashion Show and Luncheon Peppers Boutique; shopping prior and  
after luncheon As of 11/3 114 registrations. All models have been in  
for fittings. 15 models who will each model 2 outfits. Fashion show  
will start at 11:30 and take 30-45 minutes; with a 15 minute break in  
the middle allowing time for models to change to 2<sup>nd</sup> outfit.  
Announcements between and 50/25/25 drawing? . Since lunch will  
be late light snacks will be on tables during the fashion show. Tables  
will be reserved for models who will be able to eat at end of fashion  
show with the rest of women who registered. Door prizes of a bottle of  
wine at each table; using birthday closest to the event to win the  
bottle of wine. Program committee members will arrive early to assist  
.Peppers with set up and stay late to assist in reloading
- December 11, 2024 Holiday luncheon and crafts Sales before and after event/Dacia  
Jackson contacted all vendors and all but one who came last year will  
attend as well as Spencers Jewellery and Steve Griffis. We are at  
maximum for space and have two on a wait list in case anyone  
cancels. Menu is confirmed with Rene: traditional holiday dinner:  
squash dish for vegetarian option. No gluten free required as dinner  
including gravy is gluten free Cost to VGWC is 21.60 per person  
including gratuity; tickets will sell for \$25/person  
Committee is tying up loose ends for entertainment and will get it  
booked by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November
- January 8, 2025 Sheriff Chitwood confirmed and we have his vitae for intro by Derek  
Mears, Ameriprise, Topic to be safety in our neighborhood as well as  
cyber security
- February 11, 2025 Mahjong valentine's event Special committee with Elise Saunders  
chairing

March 29, 2025  
sponsors

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Casino Night Committee meeting NOW to obtain

Goal is to get funding to cover expenses prior to the event

April 9, 2025

Community event: 6-9 pm Topic: Elder Law and Resources : Estate Planning, Financial Planning, Elder Care. Derek Mears, Ameriprise, John Knox representative and an elder law attorney will be on the panel but I need an elder law attorney. Additional resources at tables around perimeter of ballroom attendees can visit before and after the panel discussion. The committee is working on the additional resources such as Publix for prepared food and delivery, long term care insurance, and visiting in-home care resources

May 14, 2025

Year End Barbecue for members 11-1:30 Picnic setting under tents weather permitting