

Victoria Gardens Women's Club
Board of Director's Meeting
November 3, 2022

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

Absent: Darlene Cross, Lynn Reim

- I Shirt and Tribute Card Promotion / Laura – Each month a sales table will be visible at the monthly meetings. All Board Directors should encourage other members to make a purchase. Big push at December Holiday Lunch.
- II November "Moment of Recognition" / Laura – Jackie Donnelly is not available due to a conflict. We will present her with flowers and certificate at another time and will project a picture of her on the screen.
- III November Luncheon Event Status / Laura for Lynn– To date 77 guests have registered. An early deadline for registration was established due to kitchen constraints. May consider boxed lunches in future.
- IV Casino Party Report / Elise – Still need committee chairs for lottery board and food and beverage. Suggestions made: Kathy Landau and Jenny Taylor for food and beverage and Barbara Solis for lottery board. It was suggested that a sandwich board be created saying "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" and be paraded during clubhouse events. A email blast will be sent out by Laura to ask for lottery tickets be brought to November luncheon. A discussion pursued on how much to charge for admission. It was decided that \$85 per ticket will cover all charitable goals.
- V Development Director Update / Laura for Darlene – Darlene and Laura are both seeking sponsors to cover the expense of the casino company. Darlene is cold calling with a warm lead and Laura is going after business sectors.
- VI LDI Director Update, Needs, Plans / Rosie – Sunshine Connection is ready to launch. Rosie suggested a slogan:
Kind hearts are the gardens
Kind thoughts are the roots
Kind words are the flowers
Kind deeds are the fruits
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- VII Charities Director / Susan – A Charity Relations Meeting will take place to coordinate volunteers. Susan has a meeting next week with FBH (formerly Food Brings Hope) to learn about volunteer opportunities. Next year, planning on having each Friendship Branch adopt a charity and have a "volunteer day".

Charities (continued) –

The Annual Giving Tree project is underway, lead by Cheryl Sullivan. Tags will be hung on November 21 and gift drop-off December 14 and 15.

Charity requests:

Beacon Center – pjs and age appropriate toys

Neighborhood Center – Walmart gift cards, ear buds, cologne

COA – robotic pets, fidget blankets

Family Renew – have list

Guardian ad Litem – 59 children in Deland, some special needs

Visitation House – have list

Will again place stickers on the back of the tags describing charities.

Family Renew Playground – joint project with the Men’s Club

Cleared and cleaned backyard in preparation for new equipment. Purchased playset at half price, flower boxes ready, purchased new cushions for patio set, mulched placed around edge.

- VIII Block Captain Status / Connie – 6 captains in place plus Joan and Elise added one more street to make 7 captains. Block captains will be used for multi-uses for marketing and promotion purposes.
- IX Facebook Status / Nancy – Nancy meeting with Angie and Brittany to finalize the WC Facebook pages. Will post pictures, notices, etc. for members. Will go live shortly.
- X HOA Updates / Laura – Laura reported on the HOA Board’s response to the ability of advertising our events to the other Victoria Park community.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Director’s Reports following:

Charitable Action Committee – NOV 2022 BOD Update
by Susan McMahon

i. Annual Giving Tree

- a. Cheryl Sullivan is once again leading the Annual Giving Tree project. We have reached out to agencies and have their wish lists. Cheryl is organizing the lists, will gather a small group to prepare the tags for the trees.
- b. Agencies served this year:
 - i. The Beacon Center – Toy and Pajamas for each child
 - ii. Family Renew
 - iii. GAL – Children in Foster Care
 - iv. Lynns’s Kids – Special Needs Foster Care Children
 - v. Neighborhood Center – Bridge Residents
 - vi. COA – Robotic Pets and Fidget Blankets
 - vii. Visitation House
- c. Important Dates
 - i. Tags on go on trees 11/21
 - ii. Drop Off Gift dates
 - 1. Wednesday, 12/14 10am – 12pm and 1pm – 3pm
 - 2. Thursday, 12/15, 10am – 12pm
 - iii. Agency Gift Pick Up date
 - 1. Friday, 12/16 9:00am. – 1:00 p.m.

ii. Agency Updates

a. VGWC October Event

- i. VGWC hosted four of the charities we support to join us at our October event. The event was structured as a moderated discussion, with a purpose of learning more about the agencies, the clients they serve and how VGWC members can get involved.
- ii. Special thanks to FBH Community, Neighborhood Center. The Beacon Center and County on Aging for attending. We received several favorable comments from members after the event.

b. Council on Aging of Volusia County (COA)

- i. Ellen Haynes and Susan McMahon toured the Orange City Senior Center and met with the manager. There are several opportunities for members to volunteer at this center. Teach a craft class, lead chair exercise, assist with Meal On Wheels distribution.
- ii. There is a need for Meals On Wheels drivers in our area. Reach out to COA or Ellen Haynes to learn more.

c. Family Renew

- i. Kicked off the Playground Project at Family Renew, a joint project of Women’s and Men’s Clubs. Families are so excited to have a welcoming, fun space for family play. Members of the men’s club and Susan McMahon had a clean-up day on 11/1 to clean up the yard in preparation for the playset install in a week. VGWC and VGMC will come back for a second workday to put in the border and mulch. New cushions have been purchased for the patio furniture and raised planter boxes ready for Master Gardeners to help with plantings.
- ii. Halloween treat bags were assembled and delivered for all the children residing at Family Renew. Thanks to Cheryl Sullivan and Rebecca Carpenter for handling this.

d. Neighborhood Center

- i. Cindy Netherton and Carol Mitchell are exploring opportunities to volunteer at Neighborhood Center. Neighborhood Center recently relocated the thrift store to a new, larger space on Spring Garden (new Habitat for Humanity). There is an immediate need for volunteers to help at the Thrift store to sort and stock items in the store. See Cindy Netherton for information.
 - e. **The Beacon Center**
 - i. Six of our members attended the Beacon Center Annual Unity Breakfast where VGWC was a \$2500 sponsor. A video of the event will be shown at the luncheons and we are all reminded to create awareness of domestic violence and reach out to Beacon Center for assistance.
 - ii. Beacon Halloween Trunk or Treat – purchased 25 Halloween costumes to be kept as a permanent supply for children residing at Beacon Center and collected Halloween Candy at the last VGWC event.
 - f. **FBH Community (formerly: Food Brings Hope)**
 - i. Marilyn Harraman (VGWC Relationship Manager for this agency) and Susan McMahon are meeting with Erin Deluc. Executive Director 11/11 to learn more about this agency and how we can get more involved with children in local schools.
- iii. **In-Kind Donations Update**
 - a. Branches should be complete with their choices to adopt an agency for in-kind donations. Nancy and Susan need to meet to complete these instructions and communicate back to the branches.
 - 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
- iv. **Sunshine Connection Update – Agency Engagement**
 - a. The Charitable Actions committee will be responsible for identifying volunteer opportunities where members can get involved. VGWC Charitable Relationship Managers will meet regularly with our agencies to flush out needs.
 - b. An online process is being created so members can see what is available, get information and contacts for these opportunities and have the opportunity to sign-up. A flow of communication will be share via Branch network, email and online to ensure everyone is informed. Look for more information as we finalize these plans. Thanks to Dacia Jackson for offering to assist with the administrative side of this process.

Publicity Director’s Report – Joan Neumann created the following:

Casino Night Admission Ticket

Casino Night Save The Date

Giving Tree flyer and poster

Maj Jongg Save the Date

Mah Jongg Rules

Mah Jongg Registration Flyer

Mah Jongg Ten Commandments

Envelope Raffle flyer

purchased supplies & set-up envelope display with Laura

November Lunch flyer

Beacon Information Sheet

Sponsorship Tiers for Sales Kit

Sunshine Connection logo

Leadership Development Initiative – by Rosie McKenna

- ✓ Focused on identifying a coordinator for all volunteer efforts who will develop a system for sign ups and tracking hours worked. Dacia Jackson has volunteered to create the system and be the administrator.
- ✓ Assisted Special Events Director with identifying members who will take responsibility for various areas of Casino Party Night
- ✓ Assisted Publicity Director with creating trifold brochure for charitable actions.
- ✓ Completed initial plans for launching Sunshine Connection program for members who need temporary interventions including food train, errand running, pet care and brief home visits and calls, cards or emails.
- ✓ Looking forward to identifying several volunteers for various charitable agencies.

Membership Director Activity for the Month by Connie Hampton

1. Sales of T-Shirts
2. Ordering and dispersing Name Tags
3. Meeting with my Membership Committee on the Street Captain project
4. Coordinating with the Friendship Committee to ensure everyone is a member at large before joining a Branch.

VGWC Program Committee November Update – 11/3/22

By Lynn Reim

November 9 Luncheon our speaker Joshua Freitas from Certus will be speaking on “Cognitive Tips for Women.” The count total will probably be around 70.

December 14 “Holiday Luncheon” with tasty menu choices of: a.) Shrimp Skewers, rice pilaf, and house salad \$20 b.) Grilled Vegetable Salad with Quinoa, tomato carrots, zucchini and squash \$15 **Desserts will be provided by our Hospitality Committee

Boutique Tables:

1. Gurrs & Purrs: for all your pet needs
2. Local Style House: Ladies and Men’s Clothing and Accessories
3. Nejma’s Boutique from New Syrna
4. Vera Rekstad Designs: Art Glass Jewelry Dihroic Glass Jewelry Mosaics Shell Art

Entertainment by: “The Millennium Musicians” who attend the Community Music School for the Arts in Deland. A program will be performed by elementary and middle school age students.

Special Events by Elise Saunders

Casino party

Still looking for a few committee chairs.

We need lottery chairperson

Food and beverage chairperson

If you have any ideas please bring them to the board meeting

We have a copy of the tickets and working on finalizing them

Friendship Tree Branch Report by Nancy Greenfisld

The Friendship Branches are all very busy with great activities planned. The Branch Calendar has been sent out and has proven to be very effective. We have had several new members joining the branches as well as members who had never joined previously. Lori Herrscher and I identified branch members who still needed to pay club dues and they were contacted through their Branch leader. The Adopt-A-Charity Forms are almost all returned and Susan McMahan will notify the Branches of their assignments. I am working with Connie Hampton 's committee to set up Street Captains and also with Rosie McKenna to have Branch members be a part of The Sunshine Connection. There is a Facebook Page for VGWC. Angie Wilson set it up but it hasn't been officially introduced as we are waiting till Angie and Brittany Abell can fine tune it.