

Lake Placid Garden Club Executive Board Meeting, January 2, 2025

President Sandy Rosch began the meeting at 9:30. The meeting took place at the Lake Placid Masonic Lodge. These members were present – Sandy Rosch, Donna Ferchen, Joyce Miles, Vicki Maxwell, Ray Adelman, Mary Meisenheimer, Ernie Bell, Karen Denning, Robin Shear, Mary Mihok, Sharon Diaz, Nick Price, Laura Krumm and Jennifer Marsh.

Donna Ferchen delivered a favorable Financial Report. The club has more than \$51,000 in assets and the Vanguard Account is paying good interest. Board members discussed many uses for the money.

The idea of purchasing microphones had been previously introduced. Ray Adelman volunteered to do research on types, uses and costs.

Paying for a bus for an LPGC trip has been proposed previously. Paying for members' admission fees and/or lunches was discussed. Nick Price noted that the fee for the bus depends on the destination and date.

Sponsoring a Little Lending Library was suggested.

Paying for some community need, such as irrigation was discussed. In particular, doing so for the Masonic Lodge was proposed. Since the Lodge has also been talking about this, it was decided to wait to see what they decide to do.

There has been no charge for the LPGC to use the Government Center for its monthly meetings until May, 2025. The proposed rent has not been decided. LPGC members will attend the January 14 Town Council Meeting to once again come up with a fair price for rent.

Mary Mihok, Membership Chairman, presented two applications for membership. Joyce Miles moved the club accept Danny Green for membership. Donna Ferchen seconded the motion which then passed. Sharon Diaz moved the club accept Gia Cerbone as a member. Robin Shear seconded the motion which then passed. Member Ray Adelman requested his membership change to become an associate member beginning in September.

Robin Shear, Call Girls Chairman, reported that several new members indicated an interest in making phone calls. She will approach them to join her committee.

The Acorn Project next meets on 1/16/25 at Royce Ranch.

In Civic Beautification news, Member Mark Ponsler volunteered to tend the Main Street Garden.

Ernie Bell, Publicity Chairman, will next publicize the Plant Sale, scheduled for March 1.

Garden Therapy will be January 14 at the Lake Placid Health and Rehabilitation Center. Fresh flowers and greens are always welcome and can be brought to Marian Chambers the previous day or that morning. They can also be taken to the Center by 9:45 the day of the Garden Therapy.

Camp Wekiva was discussed. Since the club had no applicants for camperships to Wekiva last year, ideas were shared about soliciting interest. The income from Coins for Camp, collected at each General Meeting, goes to Wekiva for any expense they have. Last year's donation bought a slushie machine for the camp.

Since there doesn't seem to be much interest in Wekiva, the club is gathering information about the local 4-H Camp, Camp Cloverleaf. A scheduled representative for the Camp didn't show up as our speaker for the November meeting. Sherill Trevino will do more research. The club gave Camp Cloverleaf some money last year.

Nick Price reported that the December Christmas collection for Manna Ministries was 327.5# of food and a monetary donation of \$1,120. The club will have an Easter collection for Manna Ministries at the April meeting.

Nick Price, Trips and Tours Chairman, presented a couple ideas for trips. Members expressed interest in visiting the Ford/Edison Estate, the nearby Berne Davis Botanical Garden in Fort Myers. Nick will look into the costs of the bus and the two attractions and whether a lunch could be bundled with either of these places. Members seemed to prefer a March date. The Board voted in November to pay the cost of the bus.

Youth Gardening, which involves approximately 19 E-Learning lab students, grades 4-6, will take place January 15. The planned activity will be planting ponytail palms. The December meeting included a project about snakes.

Laura Krumm reported she'd had a problem with two Library plants. One died and the other needs attention. Member Ray Adelman volunteered to provide an appropriate plant to replace it.

The Nell Coe Award will be a primary focus in January and particularly in February.

Vicki Maxwell and Ray Adelman spoke about the March 1 Plant Sale. More soil is needed. Vicki and Jennifer Marsh both have plants in their yards which can provide cuttings. Vicki will host members at her house January 23 from 9:30 until noon for that purpose. Those donating plants need to provide the name of the plant. Ray will order those plant stakes. Having an information table to share information on specific requirements for each plant was proposed. There might be information on subjects such as a butterfly garden available as well.

Donna Ferchen and Vicki Maxwell both gave favorable reports on the December 12 Progressive Dinner.

The January 2025 General Meeting was discussed.

Since this is the beginning of a new year, members are encouraged to wear their "bling."

There will be no Horticulture segment.

The business portion of the meeting will be shortened to make more time for our speaker, Jim Brockway, who will speak on AI.

Lunch will be a member-provided soup, sandwich and dessert meal. Those who signed up to bring an item will not have to pay for lunch. Others will pay the usual \$10. Those wishing to buy lunch in February, chicken alfredo from the Golden Corral Steakhouse, are expected to pay in advance at the January meeting.

Centerpieces will be made by Sharon Diaz.

The Opportunity Table was discussed. Since there may be a lack of interest in the plants, perhaps crafts items or planting items such as pots could also be offered. "Lack of interest" may actually

be caused by members already having the available plants and the fact that some members are unable to make use of new plants.

There will be a Basket Making workshop to be held at the Masonic Lodge February 20. Sharon Diaz is collecting the money.

The Nominating Committee will need to get to work, finding candidates for LPGC offices. Nominations will be made at the March meeting; voting will take place at the April meeting. Installation of new officers will take place at the May meeting.

The annual Holiday Home and Graden Tour generated a profit of \$10,707.19. The budgeted profit was \$8,100. A meeting of the Holiday Home and Garden Tour Committee will take place immediately following this meeting.

The District IX Spring Meeting will be held at the Fort Myers Riverside Center, hosted by the Garden Club of Cape Coral, on Wednesday, May 21.

Members were reminded not to park directly in front of the Government Center. Those needing handicapped parking are exempt.

The meeting ended at 11:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Miles

Recording Secretary