

**Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council General Meeting**  
**January 12, 2018**  
**Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order by President Bernadette Hamera at 9:33 am

Monica Freed (Poinciana and Potpourri Garden Clubs) read an inspirational message. Elizabeth Keeler (Gardens of the World) led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recording Secretary, Sylvia Swartz, said the Minutes of the November meeting were posted on the bulletin board. Monica Freed made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Anina Bachrach. Sylvia read the Motions made by the Board at the November, December and January meetings.

Assistant Treasurer Charlene Anderson said the financial reports were posted on the bulletin board.

First Vice President, Judy Francino, informed the meeting about the upcoming Art in Bloom event to be staged in the Caretaker's Cottage at the Edison-Ford Estate on Sunday, March 4, 1-4 pm. Entry fee is \$5. There will be 15 displays. Organizers currently seeking artwork to be used as inspiration for the designers. Drawing to match designers with artwork will be held following the conclusion of the Design Classes on Feb. 5. Sign-up sheet available at the meeting or contact Terry Pinck or Vicki Williamson. Debbie Hughes commented that the event is a joint fund raiser for the Council and Ford-Edison Estates.

Kathleen Hawryluk discussed the FFGC Flower Show to be held in St. Augustine April 22 to 24 at the Renaissance World Golf Village. The show costs \$10,000 to mount and donations from individuals and Garden Clubs are being sought. Kathleen also spoke about the Ikebana International exhibit at the Naples Botanical Garden on February 16 and 17. Preview Party the day before is \$25. She also mentioned the Ikebana International Naples Chapter luncheon on March 14 (\$75), Silent Auction at 9:30 am., Speaker at 10:30 am.

Vicki Williamson informed the meeting about the District IX Landscape School which begins October this year. It runs every six months and goes through April 2020. Sign up sheets on the tables. Classes take place at Council building. Dates are Friday and Saturday Oct 26 and 27 this year, April 26-27 and Oct 25-26, 2019, and April 24-25, 2020. Details on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. website. Each 2-day program is \$100 and taking all four sessions results in certification and eligibility to belong to the Tri-Council of FFGC. Vicki is also chairing the Botanical Design class of the show. Details on the tables. Sign up with Vicki.

**President's Report:**

- Some room still available in the upcoming series of Design Classes. Instructor for the first class Monday 1/15 is Judy Gore. Classes can be audited for a nominal fee. Subsequent classes are Jan 29 and Feb. 5.
- President's Tea, January 26. Roundtable discussion on how to move the Council forward.
- Silent Auction today of a miscellany of items

At this point, President Hamera introduced Vince Molnar, owner of Riverland Nursery, who gave an interesting talk on privacy landscaping with many planting examples.

Following the program, First Vice President, Joyce Pelewski announced the program for our next meeting – Romancing the Light.

## President's Report – continued

President Hamera

- reminded the meeting that clubs should be identifying nominees for the 2018 Bern Davis Service Award. The annual award luncheon will be in April.
- thanked the members of the Royal Palm Garden Club who provided today's refreshments. She also thanked the Hibiscus Society and the Rare Fruit Tree Society for the work they did in the garden following Hurricane Irma. The Hibiscus Society replaced the hibiscus plants and the Rare Fruit Tree Society righted/replanted all the toppled trees.
- Said that the lot outside the garden which had been in use by FEMA following Hurricane Irma, had been re-sodded. In about 4 years' time, it will be paved with pervious pavers.
- spoke with Mike Flanders who said that the current McGregor Blvd. project is just about finished and the new phase of installing a roundabout will begin shortly. Virginia Ave. will become Edison Ave. FMLCGC has been asked to help with the planning of the landscape. The current design indicates that we will not lose as much of our property as first thought. In addition, we will get the small area of land by the rear gate incorporated into our parcel that cannot be used as part of the parking area. Our lease and the Edison-Ford Estate lease will be amended. Ground will be broken in the next month or two. In 2019, work will begin on relocating the Edison-Ford Estate main entrance to Larchmont and closing the McGregor Blvd. entrance.
- reported that Chris Pendleton, Edison-Ford Estate President and CEO, has now retired and the search for her successor is underway. Her replacement will be introduced to the Council and its members at a future meeting.
- noted the NewsPress article on the FMLCG published yesterday

A question was asked about how successful the FMLCGC information table was at the recent Edison Festival/Market and whether it would be repeated. Debbie Hughes said that no Festival is planned for February. The next one will be November 17 and 18.

### Announcements:

January 26 and 27 – Wedding Dresses through the Ages, Alva United Methodist Church, to benefit the Alva Museum.

January 27, 9 to 1 pm., Tropical Fruit Club tree sale, Riverside Park, Bonita Springs

February 8 – Judges Council Flower Show *Back to Basics*, Garden Council HQ 1 to 3 pm.

February 12 – Gulf Coast Garden Club Flower Show 1 to 3 pm at the Unity Church, Imperial Pkwy., Bonita Springs

February 13, Estero Island Garden Club – Pre Valentine's Fund Raiser – see details in the Courier. Tickets available

March 10 – Garden Club of Cape Coral March in the Park, Jaycee Park, Cape Coral, 9 am to 3 pm

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.