

Venice AAUW Board Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2024

Present: Cynthia Bioteau, Nancy Brex, Debbie Blackwell, Marge Collin, Dee Collins, Jan Harris, Susan Hotzler, Joyce Mikulski (via phone), Jo Rahaim, Wendy Seeley, Pam Swarts, Bev Weltzien, Lynda Weston

Meeting called to order 9:34 AM.

Minutes of December 5, 2023 submitted and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bobbi Amero was not present. The Treasurer's report will be submitted in the next few weeks.

Chair reports

Vice President – Joyce Mikulski via phone

- The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting via Zoom on January 8, 2024 to discuss progress thus far.
- Polo shirts. Polo shirts can still be ordered by contacting Joyce. It is not an option to purchase one on-line. There may be a delay in getting the shirts because the owner is having serious health issues. Members who are volunteering for the Home Tour are encouraged to wear their VAAUW polo shirt or other navy blue shirt with light colored pants.
- Pam Swarts will contact members regarding the status of their order. Pam will deliver a get well plant to the shop owner.
- Miss Venice Fastpitch Team Sponsorship. Joyce outlined options to support the team during their fall and spring seasons. Each season is \$400. Joyce suggested a standing budget allotment of \$850 for a yearly sponsorship. After discussion, it was determined that a budget allotment would have to be discussed with Bobbi Amero present. Susan Hotzler made a motion to support the team for the spring season with \$400. Lynda Weston seconded, and the entire board approved the sponsorship fee. The team wears t-shirts with our logo. The first game of the spring season is February 3, 2024 at Wellen Park. Members are encouraged to attend.

Membership – Marge Collin

- There are no new members. Currently there are 192 members.
- Minor changes will be made to the membership form and on an informational brochure/handout to promote membership.
- Membership information will be available at the Home Tour ticket sales table at Island Walk and during the Home Tour. Debbie Blackwell suggested targeting Wellen Park residents with membership information.

Media – Nancy Brex and Susan Hotzler

- Jeri Jaminet submitted her resignation as an editor for the Venice Views to Jan Harris; it has been accepted. A replacement is needed. It was suggested the new person have responsibility for publicity along with the newsletter.
- Information was submitted for the Ruth Bader Ginsburg event to the web master so people can buy tickets online to the event.

- Updates were made to the directory on the website.
- Venice Mainstreet was provided with a poster for the Ruth Bader Ginsburg event which has the link for our website for purchasing tickets.
- The January monthly meeting was placed on the Venice Mainstreet calendar.
- There was discussion about discontinuing the monthly birthday list in Venice Views due to inaccuracies and disinterest. Debbie Blackwell made the motion to omit the list, Jo Rahaim seconded, and it was passed.

Development – Cynthia Bioteau

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Event on January 14, 2024:

- 75 tickets were sold at the Holiday Luncheon. Online ticket sales are slow.
- 40 paper tickets were distributed to board members leaving 30 tickets available online.
- RBG planning committee meeting January 4, 2024.
- SIG Cook's Corner members are providing small bites for the champagne reception.
- Additional publicity will appear on the Facebook events page. Debbie Blackwell and Jo Rahaim will be at the Venice Art Walk on January 4 to sell tickets for RBG and the Home Tour.

Home Tour on February 9, 2024

- Dee Collins reported many volunteers are needed; hostesses, ticket takers, parking, etc. House managers are in place and a meeting for volunteers is on February 1.
- Our VAAUW flags will be displayed at each house.
- Marge Collin will have a membership table on the tour route.

Strategic Planning Activities

- Paula Hagan drafted a solicitation spreadsheet to track all fundraising and solicitation activities and to track vendors and companies who have been contacted. This will aid our comprehensive approach for outreach and targeting our fundraising goals.

Giving Day April 9-10, 2024

- All paperwork and applications have been completed and were accepted as a giving partner.

Education – Wendy Seeley

- An article appeared in the Venice Views entitled "Meet our Scholarship Recipients" with the intention to encourage members to give to our scholarship fund.
- The GCCF Scholarship Portal is not accepting applications until mid-January.
- A student from Island Montessori in Venice, named Sophia Heyman submitted a Tech Trek application although it was late. An exception was made and her nomination was accepted.

Programs – Pam Swarts

- January 11, 2024: The presenter will focus on our partnership with USF. Bobbie Amero will introduce the speaker. USF is considering hosting a west coast Tech Trek.
- January 14, 2024: "An intimate evening with Ruth Bader Ginsberg."
- February 1, 2024: Sneak peak home tour overview with volunteer orientation.
- February 9, 2024: Home Tour
- March 14, 2024: features a presentation about Tech Trek

- April 11, 2024: Annual meeting

Public Policy – Debbie Blackwell

- Debbie will be attend Lobby Days in Tallahassee January 16-17 focusing on following the money of vouchers for public schools.
- In December sent out encouragement and links to the membership to be involved in writing letters to the editor by sending letters to their elected officials. Of special interest was the Sarasota County Board of Education member, Bridget Ziegler's involvement in a sex scandal after rampaging with Moms for Liberty Against LGBTQ people, family values and book banning.
- Women's healthcare rights petition were signed by many through the whole campaign. The Venice AAUW signed over 60 petitions. Good going ladies!

SIGS – Lynda Weston

- All groups are meeting.
- Beginning to discuss the use of online invitations and registration policies.

Old Business

- Branch meeting set-up for group interaction will begin at February's meeting on February 1, 2024. Volunteers will be seated by the Home Tour house where they have been assigned and will meet with the Home Tour manager.
- Marygene Witton will make lunch reservations at Café Venice for members wishing to go to lunch after the branch meetings. Contact Marygene before the regular meeting begins.

New Business

- Our current accounting software can be used to track ticket payments. Bobbi checks the link weekly to be sure it is working and current.
- Any articles in Venice Views that include ticket sales and/or payments must include a very visible link to our website for online payments.
- Discussion should begin on the future recruitment of a treasurer when/if Bobbi resigns. Consideration on whether this should be a paid position to recruit an experienced candidate
- Jan Harris shared a copy of Venice Gondolier's SunCoastEvents.com as a reference for future publicity of our events. A publicity committee has been formed with the following members; Cynthia Bioteau, Nancy Brex, Susan Hotzler, Debbie Blackwell, and Bev Weltzien. Marge Collin suggested Judy Houston as a committee member.
- Bev Weltzien described raffle items to be sold at the Home Tour. They are: a plane ride over Venice, 12 bottles of wine (value \$200), Money Tree (\$200), Lottery tickets (\$200), Finns Gift Certificate (\$200), and several pieces of art.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Rahaim, Secretary