

## Minutes of General Meeting, Nov. 14, 2019

Meeting was called to order by the President, Jean Trammell at 1:30.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the Membership, along with the Collect.

Cara Morgan, CEO, Venice MainStreet, a 501c3, not for profit, organization, was the speaker. Cara did a PowerPoint presentation with slides of pictures of the various events that MainStreet sponsors and/or offers to the people of Venice. MS is involved in the restoration of many of the historic buildings and revitalization of the shopping district and beautification of the main streets of Venice. There are 54 "MainStreets" in Florida. Our MainStreet is the "go to" one to contact when someone is looking at how to succeed.

MainStreet started because there were so many big box stores opening and malls that were taking revenue away from the small town businesses, causing many towns to become virtual ghost towns. MainStreets across Florida have made these towns more viable and has enabled these places to become successful again, which in turn, brought more people to the area.

Cara mentioned the historic signage that makes people more curious about who and what Venice is about. People are more apt to look at a sign and want to find out more about the area, ie: who is John Nolen?

Through a partnering with Venice Art Center, a new event has bloomed. It's called "Fairy Doors." Children are encouraged to make a door and place it around town at different venues, like Venice Theatre, restaurants, park areas. A website is available showing where someone might find a fairy door. There are 21 doors around Venice, with hopefully, more to come. It's a fun project to do for young and old alike.

Cara also encouraged everyone to be a member or sponsor for Venice MainStreet. She passed around sign-up sheets for volunteers and the newsletter. Jean expressed what a positive impact Venice MainStreet has had on the area.

Cara stressed how wonderful the town of Venice is. We are willing to volunteer and support everything that goes on in the town.

The September Treasurer's report and the Minutes of the September General meeting were approved.

The business part of the meeting started with Lorraine Finizio, Membership Chair, introducing 7 guests. Guests names were Myrna Goldbaum, Bonnie Burke, Carol Krakashian, Bernice Glynne Allison, Patti Creech, Dawn Perreault, and Tish Scott-Murphy. Three of the ladies joined on the spot; and four asked for applications so they may join through the mail.

Aimee Holmes, Program Chair, gave more information about the December 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Lunch, at Allegro Bistro. She asked for volunteers to take the four money trees, which will be raffled at the lunch as we have done in the past. Taking a tree means decorating it and attaching \$25 (singles). The money would either be donated, or Aimee would give to the decorator, which monies would be taken from the lunch budget. In the past, members gave as a donation. Aimee offered the \$25 in case someone only wanted to decorate the tree.

Laura Hester, Fundraising Chair, spoke about the February 11<sup>th</sup> fundraiser, "Dancing for the Arts." Laura stressed the need to sell tickets, suggesting that people get a table of eight of their friends. She has blocks of tickets available to anyone who wants to sell them.

Laura explained the different tasks involved and asked for volunteers for each. There were sign-up sheets, or you can email/contact Laura with your area of interest.

Laura applauded Roxanne Smith and her team for the hard work they've been putting in to collect the items for the "Silent Auction." Roxanne asked the members to please ask places they frequent, like hair/nail salons, etc., if they would donate gift certificates, or products.

There is still a need for at least two volunteers to man the "Wall of Libation." She stressed that no one was going to work the whole night. Laura wants the volunteers to do shifts, so everyone can enjoy the party.

There is a need for volunteers to help assemble the centerpieces on the day of the event. Laura explained what the centerpieces would look like and what the assembling job would entail.

Laura mentioned what a typical Venice Theatre scholarship would be. Laura says the numbers she was given would cover class costs for every student that attended this past spring, over the summer, and this fall. For just these semesters, the cost was almost \$24,000. Winter season was not included in the numbers so we could estimate the full year class tuitions would be closer to \$30,000. We may not reach that goal, but we might consider, as our target, raising funds that would sponsor one or two semesters. Most of our profits will come partially from ticket sales, but mostly from the 50/50 raffle, the Silent Auction, Wall of Libation, and, hopefully, one or two larger ticket items (TBA). Also note that there will be dancers from the Gotta Dance Studio at the event. They will dance with anyone who may not have a partner but still enjoys dancing. No one should feel uncomfortable about dancing. And, you don't need to wear an outfit from your favorite era. Just come and enjoy the party.

Linda O'Brien was representing Salvation Army and giving out Angel Tree requests to anyone who could volunteer to buy a needy child some presents from a wish list provided. If you wish to take a child's wish list, contact Linda O'Brien at [ob151515@gmail.com](mailto:ob151515@gmail.com).

The 50/50 raised \$67. First draw was for \$20, second was \$13.

Jean has been notified by VABI that we can have a tree to decorate for the Holiday Tree Lighting in Blalock Park. Jean has already picked a Christmas Palm which is located right near the sidewalk (very visible), and it has an electrical outlet! Volunteers are needed to create some ideas for decorating the tree and work on getting the tree done, and be available to take it down again. Jean will send an email with more details. Contact Jean via email to let her know if you're interested in helping with the above.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

Refreshments and conversation were enjoyed afterward.

Refreshments were supplied by Joan Brinton this month. Volunteers are needed to do Hospitality for the months of January, February, March, and May. Anyone interested in just picking up a cake (for which you will be reimbursed), and setting up the table with the refreshments, please contact Aimee Holmes at [Aholmesbiz@gmail.com](mailto:Aholmesbiz@gmail.com).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lorraine Finizio