

Venice Nokomis Woman's Club
General Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021

Liz Mazzu, President, called the meeting to order at Blalock Park at 1:30 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Liz read "A Collect for the Woman's Club. For a bonus, we were serenaded by Beatles music from the music group meeting next to us at the park.

Liz asked for a motion to have the February and March General Meeting Minutes approved. Joani Leeds made the motion. Ellie Vick seconded the motion. All approved.

Kathy Price collected order forms and money for the May luncheon at Casperson Beach Park before the meeting started. The food will be provided by Jersey Mike's Subs. Members will have to provide their own drinks. Some order forms were picked up by members to take to members that were unable to attend the meeting. They can mail these forms with money to Kathy. Members may also bring their own lunch.

Liz gave out new VNWC shirts that had been ordered by some members. She introduced a guest that she had brought to the meeting. Her name is Lisa Cavalea. She is from Connecticut and has lived in Venice for 5 years. She is very interested in getting involved in the Club.

Liz reminded us that a speaker, Nicole Britton, was coming from TWIG to address the Club today. She gave us a summary of the Twig organization. They provide for children in foster care ages birth to 21. Twig maintains a store at Angelo's Plaza and a warehouse located in Venice. It serves Sarasota, Manatee and De Soto Counties. A new Twig is being built in Lakewood Ranch.

Three new members were welcomed and installed into the VNWC. They are Jane Hallberg, Judy Salmonson and Nancy Bussaglia. They were given name tags and a flower, and pictures were taken by Kathy Price. A very warm welcome was given to them from the Club.

Kathy Moller was installed as our new Treasurer. Many thanks to Kathy for volunteering to be our new Treasurer.

Liz Mazzu thanked Joan Brinton for her 2 years as Treasurer and recognized her exacting hard work. We are all very appreciative of her dedication to the VNWC.

Liz concluded with several items before the Twig Director spoke.

VNWC hopes to be meeting in the library in September.

There will be no General Meetings in June, July and August.

There was a brainstorming meeting for the planning of the 100th anniversary of VNWC. Ten people attended. There will be another meeting next month.

There have been 2 meetings for cutting plastic bags for sleep mats for the homeless.

Liz introduced Nicole Britton, Director of Development for Twig. Nicole gave us a history of Twig and what they provide. The statements below are some of the information that she provided:

- The Way to Give and Inspire (TWIG) was opened in 2016 serving.
- They are a nonprofit that serve 300 babies, children and young people every month through their boutique. They provide encouragement and support to their young shoppers who are allowed to pick out 7 items. Their store is fun and bright.
- Clubs and Groups support them through giving items and donations. They also have a fundraiser in May.
- A Wish list is on their web site, TheTwigCares.com. Socks, shoes, underwear and pjs are needed the most. Items can be purchased through an Amazon site also.
- Tickets are on sale on their web site for their Taste for Food Truck.
- Ages 18-21 need clothes to work and body care products.
- Covid has brought a foster care capacity crisis. During Covid Twig had to make appointments for babies coming into foster care. They hope to change this soon.
- Reunifying children with their families is their goal.
- Twig workers are hired from the volunteers.
- Teens need stylish clothes, bras and some plus sizes.
- Twig has 200 volunteers. There is training for volunteers. They are currently giving tours of 10 people to the warehouse.

Liz closed the meeting at 2:15 PM by thanking Nicole for her presentation at our meeting. Next month we are encouraged to bring items for Twig to our Birthday Celebration at Casperson Beach. Get your food orders into Kathy Price.