

**DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

1. Amy Munizzi, President called the meeting to order, Pastor Doug Knight lead the group in prayer, and Amy led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Amy asked everyone to share introductions as it is the first meeting of the new year and we had new participation from the community joining us. Amy thanked everyone for joining us and we are pleased with the turnout at our new location.

3. Treasurer's Report, Tammy Schuler: Cliff McInnis Memorial donations raised \$1,325.00 that were placed in the DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Fund; \$600 was also transferred there from the building fund by the donor's request. Tammy noted that she paid our final power bill for the Porter House. Expenses were \$420.92, Income was \$100, available balance was \$16,015.67 but with line items deducted the spending balance was -\$1,765.58. Amy reminded everyone that doesn't mean we have a negative balance, just no additional spending funds. Tammy reminded everyone that Membership Dues are due; \$30 for individuals/families/nonprofits and \$75.00 for business. Incoming dues will alleviate the negative spending balance. Jim Simmons moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Robin Knight seconded; the motion passed.

4. Reports:

A. Vice President's Report and Membership Report: Jason Sampsell reminded everyone the importance of their 2020 membership dues. 100% of our membership dues go back into the organization and the community, since we have an all-volunteer staff working from their own offices.

B. Winter Warm Clothing Drive update: Tammy Schuler reported that dozens of pullovers and jackets were donated and she delivered them to MHS and MES in December. She will be purchasing and delivering additional items with the funds that came in after the December meeting.

C. McInnis Elementary School SAC: Colleen Kurczi reported that MES is part of a pilot program that provides each classroom with a new smart TV because projectors need replacing. It was further reported that a lot of concerns were raised regarding the age, condition and safety of the buildings. Several parents would like to recruit community participation in attending School Board meetings to address these issues. Colleen informed the DSCA, Inc. Board of this prior to the meeting and they agreed that further research needs to be completed before deciding what the actual demands of the community should be prior to attending meetings. Colleen reminded everyone that Amy sent an e-mail out from Sonia Larrabee saying she needs interviewers for the MES 5th Grade Science Projects, this Friday, January 17, 8:15 to 11:15 am. Colleen will attend. Amy thanked Colleen for serving on the SAC and keeping the DSCA Inc. membership well informed.

D. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Janice Russak reported they had a guest speaker, that the last weekend in January is the Manatee Festival at Blue Springs, and she and Amy handed out several flyers for River2C Loop activities. Kevin Phelps stated the SUN Trail section along Highway 17 will hopefully be started in the next five years. Amy thanked Janice for serving on the ROLHCB on behalf of DSCA, Inc.

E. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley reported that clipped coupons can be expired up to one month and they are shipped all over the world for our troops to use. She currently has 12 oz. of coupons to be mailed out.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea reported that the cell phones and accessories are recycled and kept out of the landfills and converted into calling cards for troops. She currently has 4 lbs. to be mailed out in this new year. Amy shared the stats that the program has provided more than 300 million minutes and 15 million devices have been recycled since the program started in 2004.

Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Amy reported that we continue to accept donations of nonperishable food, baby wipes, diapers, etc. for MHS families who are very appreciative. She thanked everyone for their continued generosity and she will drop off the donations the day following each DSCA, Inc. meeting.

F. Chuck Lennon Park and Mountain Biking Trail: Kevin Phelps reported that the tennis courts are being resurfaced at the cost of \$120,000 to the County despite being (improperly) resurfaced 5 years ago. He also informed us of a popular sport called pickleball the courts are striped for. Kevin reported that the new hiking trail has been marked out but Tim Bailey, head of parks department has not yet gotten approval. The

mountain bike trails are getting a lot of use from both locals and travelers alike. Kevin gave us a brief historical background to the trails that are now maintained by SORBA (the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association) and his local chapter Florida Association of Single Track Riders (FASTR), as a “destination” trail. Amy emphasized that we love folks visiting our area for eco-tourism opportunities. Kevin mentioned that they are working on making the trails reverse for the folks who like to stay overnight and ride out the following day.

G. Ride Into Reading Update: The update from Media Specialist Lisa Bertolami is that at this point the 3rd graders have earned 2,137 points and read 1,889,392 words. The highest scoring girl has 388 points and the highest boy has 130 points. This program started in October and Amy stated that the highest scoring girl has already amassed more points than the winner of last year’s challenge. Amy also informed us that each month we provide a \$10.00 Walmart gift card to be awarded for periodic incentives.

H. DSSP Day in Park History Event update: Andrea Smiley reported that Amy, Tammy and herself had a booth to represent DSCA, Inc. along with around 10 other vendors. There was a tram tour that presented the history of the park and a boat tour with historic information. The event was unfortunately interrupted by inclement weather. This event focused more on our individual park’s history than Florida history. This event will be held annually the first Saturday in January. Robin Knight reported that she attended the “First Day’s Hike” and was able to learn a lot about the park’s history on that day also.

5. Amy stated that our January meeting is our “Vision Meeting” where we review events the DSCA, Inc. currently hosts and/or supports and discuss activities members would like to pursue in 2020. She asked for a “keep” or “discontinue” for each item, and discussion as necessary:

A. DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship – keep;  
B. DSCA, Inc. Ride Into Reading Program at McInnis Elementary- keep;  
C. Malloy Head Start Monthly Food Pantry- keep;  
D. Dessert With A Deputy- agreed to keep, but we will wait to schedule it when we are established at a regular meeting location;

E. Troopons© Coupons for Soldiers – keep;

F. Cell Phones for Soldiers – keep;

G. DeLeon Dispatch Quarterly Newsletter – keep. Amy reminds us that each annual ad (four editions) is \$60 for members or \$100 for non-members and then we have printing costs but no editorial cost to create it. We are also so grateful to our editor who puts in an average of 20 hours to put it together. We typically run 300 copies a quarter and upwards of 700 around festival time.

H. Back to School Backpack Drive for Malloy Head Start – keep; we broke our previous record with 58 backpacks filled this year. Amy reported that the Christian Church donated over 100 backpacks during their community event and provided the ones that were left at the end to McInnis Elementary.

I. International Walk to School Day (first Wednesday in October) – keep. Amy reminds us that our dedicated crossing guards keep our kids safe by getting them across Highway 17 each day, the VCISO participates with us and it brings awareness to the perils kids face trying to walk to school daily. The only cost to us a \$100 gift card to the MES art department for children to have their artwork in our festival. Jason reminded us to keep our cell phones out of our hands in a school zone as you WILL be issued a citation per the new law. Always be vigilant and not be distracted while driving and please use common sense.

J. Amy mentioned that we agreed to roll off the Spring Festival due to the proximity to Easter and the amount of work needed from our volunteers. We will pursue ideas for new options for the spring.

K. October Autumn in the Oaks Art, Music and Crafts Festival (third Saturday, October 17th) - keep. Amy stated we have been offered the Christian Church’s grounds, Juan and Lucy Mancilla’s church property on Ponce DeLeon Blvd., Brad Fender’s property on Highway 17, and Lee Munizzi’s property on Highway 17 & Spring Garden Ranch Road across from the Forestry Station. Amy stated we may be able to get Forestry to do their Open House the same day, since they usually try to avoid a conflict with us in October, and it would be a much bigger event, with COPs getting people back and forth Highway 17 as usual. Discussion followed regarding parking and lining up the exhibitors, along with the potential of the farm swap being held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month making it a very eventful day in DeLeon Springs.

L. Thanksgiving Baskets for Malloy Head Start – keep;

M. Warm Clothing Drive for McInnis Elementary/Malloy Head Start – keep – Amy mentioned that we added McInnis in the past 2 years.

N. Annual Taylor High Wildcat 5K Run Sponsorship – Amy moved that although there is a line item for \$250.00, she would like to continue with \$500.00 that we have previously sustained. Amy’s motion failed due to lack of second and is tabled until later in the year to be further discussed after 2020 dues are paid.

Jim Simmons inquired about the Pierson Fourth of July Festival we have previously sponsored and everyone agreed to keeping that as a decision made each year.

6. Suggestions for new events or activities: Jason proposed an event such as a bike rodeo by partnering with the mountain biking clubs, JC's bike shop and others but felt it should be in 2021. Amy stated our section of the trail that ends at Grand Ave. is slated to be continued along Ponce De Leon Blvd., through the woods on the right and up Spring Garden Rd. and felt an event celebrating that would be good. Further discussion regarding some type of bike event continued. Kevin stated he puts together bike events on a regular basis and felt we could do something in spring, 2020. Amy asked Kevin if he would look into details for that and report back at our February 11th meeting; Kevin agreed.

7. Public Comments: Four community members informed us of what they believe to be a meth house located at 355 Van Hook Drive and the attendant code violations and criminal activities that include approaching children for drug sales. They have been complaining to the VCSO and code enforcement for two years. Arrests are made but the people return. They also informed Jim Hawkins, there to represent the Christian Church, that electricity and water is being stolen from the church. Jason provided information regarding why they should continue to repeatedly call the VCSO but with very detailed information and to continue to call code enforcement in order to get assistance from the County. It was also suggested they attend the public comment portion of county council meetings, since we are unincorporated and that is our government. Amy stated she would follow up with the VCSO.

8. Other business, reminders, announcements:

A. Amy reminded everyone that Annual DeLeon Dispatch Sponsorships are needed, four issues per year are \$100 for non-members, \$60 for members. She will send an e-mail with more information. Sponsor information is due by January 31.

B. Tammy reminded everyone that the 2020 DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Application and Criteria is available online under the info tab. Tammy already contacted Taylor High. Application deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>.

C. Amy was contacted by Taylor High to contribute gift card donations for teachers as a reward for their good work. It was agreed upon by the membership to table it due to the negative balance and lack of follow up from the contact who requested our participation.

D. Amy gave an update regarding a mattress in the median on Highway 17, she contacted code enforcement who contacted Solid Waste who said it was an FDOT issue. She was happy to report that it was picked up today by Lafleur Nurseries, the landscaping company that just took over the FDOT roadway maintenance contract in our area. Jason mentioned a lot of trash north of town; Amy will contact FDOT again.

E. Tammy brought up participation in the MESTRONG 5K February 1st in downtown DeLand supporting cancer patients and survivors. She encouraged the membership to participate.

F. DSCA, Inc. General Meeting Dates for 2020: February 11th, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 14th, August 11th Anniversary Dinner, September 8<sup>th</sup>, October 13th, November 10th, December 8th Celebration Dinner and Autumn in the Oaks Art and Music Festival: October 17th.

9. Adjournment. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church of DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Colleen Kurczi*  
Secretary