

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12th, 2021

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance: Amy Munizzi, President. Pastor Doug Knight led the prayer and Amy asked everyone to give a brief introduction. Family Advocate Rosario Sanchez and Melissa Davila from Malloy Head Start let us know that this school year they have full enrollment with 66 families. Rosario shared some of the needs of these working-poor families and the extraordinary lengths their staff go to, to fill them. Rosario thanked DSCA, Inc. for our ongoing support. MHS is hosting a vaccination event for both flu and covid on 10/29/2021 and will forward details so we can share with our membership.

2. Volusia Sheriff's Office information: Amy called the VSO today and learned Lt. Barnard has been replaced with Lt. Eric Powers. She sent him an e-mail and invited him or other VSO staff to attend when available. Deputy Gordon was in attendance and asked for questions from our members, discussion ensued. An important update Deputy Gordon provided in regard to the speeding issues on Audubon and Ponce De Leon Blvd: several deputies recently attended specialized traffic training and will be in the area with traffic devices, they are also planning to put digital speedometer trailers out in the area. Amy thanked them for their diligence.

3. Acceptance of September 14th Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary requested a motion for approval of the minutes as written and emailed to the membership, they are also available on our website: Doug Knight made the motion, Andrea Smiley seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Reports:

A. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported that our current checkbook balance is \$3,088.71 which includes income of \$326.00, expenses of \$175.15 and an available spending balance of \$1,133.97. Jim Simmons moved approval, RoseAnne Sampsell seconded and the motion carried.

B. Chuck Lennon Park Walking Trail update: Amy Munizzi reported that she, Kevin Phelps and a consultant from Excelsior Environmental Services, who came on our behalf, met with VC Parks and Rec. Director Tim Baylie to walk the newly proposed trail. It is just over a mile long. It does include a view of the seep but not the lake since VC Environmental does not want wetlands impacted. Kevin and Amy agreed it was the best option considering the circumstances and Tim said they would move forward with it. Amy showed a map of the potential trail. . Kevin and Amy agreed it was the best option considering the circumstances and Tim said they would move forward with it. Amy showed a map of the potential trail and passed it around for members to view.

C. Chuck Lennon Park, Chuck Lennon Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported via text that the trails are still in rough shape. The flood waters are receding but there's a lot of mud, plus trail and bridge damage. A dirt bike and rebel riders have been on the closed trails causing even more damage. There will be a volunteer workday Saturday, October 16th, 9:00 am-12:00 pm to start addressing the issues and reopen some trails if possible, since at the moment only Screaming Hawk (the easiest trail) is open. Please meet at the main trailhead. Volunteers will be doing lots of dirt work, foliage trimming and some rerouting around flooded areas. Please bring your own tools. Details will also be shared on our Facebook page.

D. Hwy 17 Corridor Water and Sewer improvements update: Amy Munizzi reported that Volusia County Utilities Director Mike Ulrich and Engineer Erin Reed met with SJRWMD and FDEP to discuss the County's overall goals but have not secured additional funding. The engineering is proceeding and should be completed in November. Construction costs have gone up and the project will cost more than anticipated. This will delay the beginning of construction but the project continues to move forward.

E. McInnis Elementary School STEM Lab project final: Sharon Pinder was unable to attend, and Colleen Kurczi reported that the project was completed by our volunteers on September 17, 2021. It was a complete success, and the school is incredibly grateful. Amy thanked Colleen and Sharon for doing the bulk of the work sorting and organizing thousands of items for the lab and for sticking to it until it was finished.

F. Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge Kick off: Amy Munizzi reported that we launched our Ninth Annual Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge September 30 with a rally in the Media Center for all third graders. The students heard about our reading incentive program exclusively for MES third graders, and how they could earn a new bicycle and helmet, which were on display, just by reading books. We also provided seven \$10 Walmart gift cards to be awarded monthly for the most improved readers. The bikes and helmets will be awarded at the end of the school year to the top scoring girl and boy. Students ended the rally with some Skittles and a Q&A time. Amy thanked JC's Bikes and Boards in DeLand for the exceptional discount they gave us on the bikes, and for donating the helmets too.

G. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley reported that she has collected 5 lbs. 11 oz. to date and shared correspondence from soldiers stationed in Japan and Germany.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley reported that she has collected 15 lbs. 10 oz. to date and just received more at this month's meeting.

Malloy Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets: Tammy Schuler reported on this annual event and shared that our goal is to fill at least 25 baskets this year. CCDS is collecting non-perishables and Publix generously donated 30 \$20 gift cards to go in the baskets for a ham or turkey purchase. Volunteers are welcome to help assemble the baskets on November 16, 2021, at 10:00 AM. Tammy said she is accepting monetary donations now through our November 9th meeting and people can contribute non-perishables at the November meeting. Amy reported that Rosario and Melissa will be volunteering with us, as well as Georgia Turner and staff from West Volusia Tourism.

H. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported that they will be hosting a History Exhibit in January and February 2022 at the Enterprise Museum and we are submitting a write up and photos of DeLeon Springs' history to be on display there with the other entities along the corridor.

I. DSSP Kayak launcher signage: Amy Munizzi reported that the sign is finished. A DSSP volunteer will be making a frame for it and then it will be installed.

J. McInnis Elementary School First Grade "Pocket Readers" Program: former MES academic coach Sonia Larrabee and Dr. Cathy Cortez reported updates on the program. There are currently four DSCA, Inc. volunteers (Amy Munizzi, Camy Brooks, Doug and Robin Knight) participating in this program, but more are needed and encouraged to contact Principal Paul Struska to be involved. Doug shared his experiences and Amy said it is so rewarding to do; you only need the skill of wanting to help a child read better. Sonia Larrabee further reported that she has taken a position at Woodward Elementary that focuses on coaching and lessens some of the obligations she took on at MES over her career there. She said many talented teachers have already taken up those roles upon her departure. Amy Munizzi presented Sonia with flowers and a gift of appreciation on behalf of DSCA, Inc. and said Sonia has been a tremendous asset to us over the years connecting DSCA, Inc. with the needs of MES and partnering with us to send students to Camp Winona.

K. FDOT MES School Zone safety improvements: Amy Munizzi reported that after a year of Principal Struska and DSCA, Inc. prodding FDOT, FDOT recently extended the northbound "End School Zone" sign to beyond the carline exit, which has long been a safety concern. Other improvements will be a reduction in speed from 25 to 20 MPH and additional safety signage.

5. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. Malloy Head Start thanksgiving Baskets, volunteers are needed to help fill and deliver them, 10:00 am on Tuesday, November 16th.

B. Volusia County Redistricting meetings and online input: www.volusia.org/census. Amy reported that there are six maps and everyone should look at them. Map F mostly resembles what we now have and keeps DeLeon Springs in District 1. Amy said it's important to speak up and pay attention to these things. Ten years ago, proposed maps would have split DeLeon Springs in half and because we voiced our concerns along with others, it was avoided. Amy circulated copies of the map options. The County Council appears to be leaning

toward Map F but Amy encourages our membership to review the maps and provide the Council with input. Another public meeting will be held Monday, October 18th at 5:30 pm.

6. Public Comments: Pastor Doug Knight shared that the First Baptist Church of DeLeon Springs will be celebrating 100 years on Sunday November 14, 2021, at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. All community members are invited to attend. He has been there 44 years and has been the pastor for four years. He filled in some historic details and discussion ensued. Elizabeth Lendian inquired if anyone knows what is happening with the property on the right, with all the boats and vehicles parked there as you enter DeLeon Springs from the south on US Hwy. 17. The owner, Allen Hooper, was in attendance and provided some updates on his efforts to get some of the vehicles moved away. Elizabeth also reported that she is a member of the TPO Citizens Advisory Committee and has shared her concerns about the lack of side lines on Arredondo Grant. Rd. and how dangerous it is to travel at night since there is swamp and no shoulder on either side. Amy requested Elizabeth report back with an update from the County at our next meeting.

7. Adjournment. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Kurczi, Secretary