

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.
PLEASE SILENCE CELL PHONES

1. Amy Munizzi, President called the meeting to order, Pastor Doug Knight led the Prayer and Amy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Amy thanked Jim Simmons for acting as Secretary in Colleen Kurczi's absence. Since we had several visitors, each person introduced themselves.

2. Acceptance of January 14th Meeting Minutes: Amy reminded everyone the minutes are e-mailed out to members and are on our website. She asked for any corrections or discussion; hearing none she asked for a motion to approve them. Doug Knight moved and RoseAnne Sampsell seconded approval; motion passed.

3. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer stated we had expenses of \$234.50, income of \$2,454.95 from dues, newsletter sponsorships and additional donations, leaving a balance of \$4,540.01. Amy stated we had a private donor who donated \$100 to us, for us to become a nonprofit sponsor of the River To Sea Loop Alliance, since much of their grant funding has ceased and the Alliance does so much for trails advancement. With line items backed out we have a spending balance of \$1,521.01. Amy requested that since we have the available funds, Tammy reload the Ride Into Reading Line Item with \$320.00, that being \$250 for bicycles and \$70 for seven gift card incentives so the money is set aside for the next school year.

4. Reports:

A. VCSO Lt. Bryan Barnard reported that things have been quiet in DeLeon Springs lately, beyond an incident at a local club and the perpetrator was apprehended. Amy stated that parents wanted to extend their thanks to VCSO for the deputy that has been stationed at the McInnis Elementary School car line exit in the afternoons, since that area is one of concern as parents try to exit onto the 4-lane highway. She also stated our member Chris Edge has been instrumental in staying in contact with VCSO regarding speeding along the Audubon Ave. and Grand Ave. area. Because of that, VCSO requested Traffic Engineering to do traffic counts over a 48 hour period and that was impressive to get that attention here. Tickets were given out and a stolen car was detected with Air One and dogs dispatched, etc.

B. SAC: Colleen Kurczi reported via e-mail that during the January SAC meeting it was shared that Title I funds are being released and some of those funds will be utilized for tutoring. This will assist with the School Improvement Plan's focus on improving the achievement of students with disabilities, science achievement, and improving math learning skills for students with lowest abilities.

C. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported that they still meet virtually. They are working on a digital magazine. FDOT continues their online series "Roadside Chats" open to the public, that centers on information pertaining to the Scenic Byways and getting people onto the back roads to discover small communities like ours. DeLand is going back to hosting some events in March with the Wildflower Festival. Enterprise Museum will host Lost History Week March 15-21. Blue Spring State Park will begin after school programs the end of March, and Amy reported to them about the progress of our portion of the Spring to Spring Trail, the CLP Mountain Biking night rides and the water and wastewater project.

D. Chuck Lennon Park, Mountain Biking Trail and Hiking Trail update: Kevin Phelps reported that he has noticed increased usage of the ball fields again at CLP and that Volusia County has actively advocated for them to be used by reducing rental rates. 90% of the mountain biking trail system has reopened but some areas remain wet from previous rains. Their bike club paid for lighting and a pole for it, but they are still waiting for Volusia County to install the pole. This lighting provides safety especially for the current night rides taking place each Monday evening at 6:30 pm. There is nothing new to report about the hiking trail; Tim Baylie is waiting to discuss the usage covenants with others in his department to determine if it can go forward.

E. DeLeon Springs Trail/Spring to Spring Trail/River to Sea Loop update: Amy Munizzi reported she spoke with Tadd Kasbeer, VC Engineering and Construction. The paving, striping and sod is finished and

handicap pavement stripes are now installed. Once everything is finalized and Volusia County has signed off on it, they'll notify us it's open for public use. VC doesn't want to host an official opening right now.

F. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley stated she has 1 lb. 6.80 oz. coupons and more were given to her tonight, along with our faithful Maine member Margo Boyd who mails them to her.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley said for the new year she has three donated and we are back on track for collecting them so please remember to donate old phones and accessories for recycling.

Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Tammy Schuler thanked members for their food and clothing donations tonight and stated we are collecting for MHS this year and she will deliver all the donations to them tomorrow. Jimmy Hawkins of CCDS reported that they had a successful Meals Giveaway and will continue to do it the 3rd Friday of each month to anyone that comes. Volunteers are appreciated beginning at 4:30 pm to help with set up and hand out. Pastor Arch Fisher of DSUMC stated the church continues their food pantry the third Thursday of each month from 3-5:30 pm, open to all.

G. Ride Into Reading update: MES Media Specialist Lisa Bertolami e-mailed to say the third graders have accumulated 2,372 Reading Counts points, up 591 points from last month. Amy delivered the additional gift cards to Lisa for monthly reading incentives through April and then bikes will be awarded in May.

H. Water and Wastewater improvements update: Amy Munizzi spoke with Erin Reed, Volusia County Utilities Engineer who said they are continuing the process and the engineering design phase is about 30% accomplished and should be completed by April. As long as design and permitting stay on schedule we can expect construction to begin by the end of this year.

5. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. 2021 DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Application and Criteria available online. Application deadline: postmarked by March 31st

B. Information on new Winners Café business. Amy reported that we received several inquiries about the sign in front of the old Wells Fargo training center. She called Volusia County Planning and Development and spoke with Trevor, who said Florida State law allows "games of skill" to be placed in areas of zoning that allow arcades. This area is zoned B-4 which allows arcades, and internet cafés are classified as "games of skill", not gambling. Fla. State Dept. of Revenue (not Volusia County) regulates these businesses. The business must provide a list of the equipment used in the facility, then the State provides certificates for each of them. Once that happens and VC receives the certificates, they will issue a business permit. The business has received a permit for the new sign in front.

C. Concerns over MES car line exit; FDOT's response: Amy said we have worked with Principal Struska regarding concerns over the "End School Zone" sign being south of the parent exit on northbound US Highway 17. DSCA, Inc. approached FDOT, who issued a study of the situation. They came back with preliminary recommendations that include lowering the speed limit to 20 MPH (state guidelines), include "Speeding Fines Doubled" signs (state guidelines), relocating and repainting the "SCHOOL" pavement markings in both directions. However, they did not address moving the "End School Zone" sign northward. Amy requested they address that but has not heard anything back from FDOT.

D. MES/Volusia County Schools "Elementary School Counselor of the Year" was awarded to MES Counselor Sara Montalvo at a surprise ceremony February 8th. Several VCS leaders were there to honor Sara and DSCA, Inc. presented her with flowers, a certificate and a gift card on behalf of the community.

E. MES Science Fair: MES representative Kathi Gallentine reported that each class did a project and elected one student to present it. Teachers will be judges so outside volunteers are not needed this year.

F. Possible MES Third Grade Adult Mentor Reading Program: Sharon Pinder reported that Sara Montalvo contacted us about concerns they have over approximately 13 third grade students who are seriously struggling with reading. She asked if we could possibly supply adult mentors, since many of these children don't have an adult in the household with adequate reading skills themselves. Sharon followed up with Assistant Principal Joselyn Baker who said the goal is to have adult volunteers listen to students read

and build a relationship with a student in need, while helping them to learn how to enjoy reading in the process. This would be done in the mornings from 7:50-8:20, possibly two times per week. It would need to be done virtually via Microsoft Teams but if volunteers didn't have access to a video-capable computer, they could instead go to Sara Montalvo's office and do it there. Kathi Gallentine added that these children would be so grateful just to have someone care to listen to them as they read, and the effort we make would be rewarding to us while making such a positive impact on a child that needs that adult encouragement. Sharon stated that volunteers would be given a copy of what was to be read in advance, possibly a science text. Terry Pinder stood at the back for volunteers to sign up as they left but we need more volunteers. If you can help with this worthwhile program please e-mail Sharon at: sharonpinder1@gmail.com or phone her at 912-288-3952.

6. Public Comments: Jim Simmons reported that our long time member Jennie Mero is in the hospital. Amy stated we had missed her at meetings, e-mailed and called her several times and then requested VCSO do a well check visit on her. Several members know of her affectionately as the "chicken lady" because of her books on "Sunny the Rooster". Oscar Brock of the West Volusia Historical Society showed several renderings he had done of the east and west entrance gates of Burwyn Park along Retta Ave. and Kevin Phelps contributed information he knew about them as well. There were questions about who had authority over their care and maintenance since they are over 100 years old and iconic structures. Mr. Brock donated the renderings to the DSCA, Inc. and Kevin volunteered to accept them on our behalf. New business member Thomas "JR" Galarza of JR Quality Appliance Service spoke about having grown up in DeLeon Springs, attending MES and Taylor Middle-High, and that his family has been in the area for generations. Amy noted that several of his relatives are well known public servants through law enforcement, etc., have attended our "Dessert with a Deputy" events and have served the DeLeon Springs area for a long time. JR spoke about his business, and their sponsoring of several streets in the "Adopt A Road" clean up program in DeLeon Springs.

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