

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

1. Amy Munizzi, President called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, offered the prayer, led the Pledge of Allegiance, then everyone introduced themselves, including members, visitors, new members Terry and Sharon Pinder, visiting District Three County Councilman Deb Denys and former District One County Councilman Pat Patterson.

2. Acceptance of February 11th Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary reported that the minutes are on the website for review and asked if there were any questions or corrections. Hearing none, Jim Simmons moved to accept the minutes; Robin Knight seconded; motion passed.

3. Review and Acceptance of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported the monthly expenses are as follows: \$368.00 for newsletters, \$7.75 for postage, and \$30.25 for website hosting for a total monthly expense of \$406.00. Income for the month is as follows: \$610.00 paid membership dues, \$180.00 paid for newsletter advertisements, and \$8.55 received from AmazonSmile donations for a monthly income of \$798.55. The current checkbook balance as of 3/10/2020 is \$17,543.57 which leaves a -\$262.68 available spending balance after all dedicated line items are backed out. Pat Patterson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Kevin Phelps seconded; the motion passed.

4. Reports:

A. McInnis Elementary School SAC and PTA: Colleen Kurczi reported that McInnis Elementary held its annual walkathon on March 6. She will have updates in April from both the SAC and PTA after both groups meet later this week regarding the ongoing matters that were discussed in last month's meeting.

B. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Janice Russak reported the following: There will be a three-panel kiosk installed at the DeBary Sun Rail Station showing information about the RoL, City of DeBary and the River2SeaLoop (for bicyclists and ecotourists). Grants are available for electric car charging stations. There is a UF Corridor Impact Study DSCA, Inc. has been invited to participate in. Nearly 80 people attended the River2SeaLoop Alliance trail ride and barbeque held last week.

C. Chuck Lennon Park and CLP Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported that the posted speed limit at CLP is 15-25 mph and reckless driving occurs at 50-60 mph there on a regular basis, putting children and families trying to enjoy the park at risk. Their group has advocated for and finally received the go ahead for installation of a speed hump on the road leading into the park. Kevin also reported that the folks riding a four-wheeler dangerously in the park near bike riders, whose photos DSCA, Inc. posted on our Facebook page, have been identified and VCSO is involved. There is a trail workday scheduled for March 28th. Kevin will email information to the group for anyone able to help prepare the trails for the rainy season.

D. New Chuck Lennon Park Hiking Trail and DSCA, Inc. 'adoption': Kevin Phelps reported that the bike trails cannot be used by pedestrians due to liability issues. After much persistence on his group's part, Volusia County Parks and Rec. approved a walking/hiking trail back to a natural spring/seep pool. The County requested DSCA, Inc. adopt this trail for minor maintenance, trash removal, etc. The DSCA, Inc. Board unanimously voted to adopt the trail. Several members agreed to help maintain and trim but heavy mower equipment must be run by Kevin's group only. Amy asked if there was any opposition to adopting the trail and no one in attendance opposed. Kevin will let the County know we have committed to do this.

E. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers, Cell Phones for Soldiers: Amy thanked Andrea, who is away on vacation, for all the work she does promoting and maintaining these two projects. She referred everyone to the Spring DeLeon Dispatch for updates on both. Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Amy thanked everyone for their faithful donations and reminded them that this pantry feeds our community's low-income children. Jim Simmons reported on the "Food for the Journey" food pantry run by the DeLeon Springs United Methodist Church. He shared that they support 60-70 families representing up to 250 individuals and the only

eligibility requirement is that they be a DeLeon Springs resident and reside within the McInnis Elementary school zone. Further information regarding the DSUMC's activities can be found in the Spring Newsletter.

F. Ride Into Reading update: Media Specialist Lisa Bertolami e-mailed a report stating the students are still eagerly earning Reading Counts points. As of right now the third graders have accumulated 3,609 points and have read 3,980,227 words. They have two students with more than 500 points, two students with more than 200 points and eight students with more than 100 points.

G. Possible kayak launcher at DSSP: Melissa Borghorst reported that she obtained information on several companies that make launchers and contacted DS Park Manager, Ken Torres to send him the information. She explained the value of having a launcher like this so people don't deal with tipping over as they enter or exit their kayak. They agreed on the company Florida's Easy Rider and obtained a quote of \$2,584.00. Installation would require a State permit and DSSP staff could do the installation. Janice Russak reported that The Friends of DeLeon Springs SP is willing to take on this project. Melissa moved that the DSCA, Inc. contribute funds to this project voluntarily; Robin Knight seconded; motion passed. Amy asked Melissa and Janice to report back on this at the next meeting.

H. DeLeon Springs Trail Update: Amy reported she spoke with VC Engineering's Travis Terpstra who stated the bids were opened on 3/12 and are within budget. FDOT must approve the bids, then if all goes well the project will begin this summer, with completion in December. This trail will connect with the trail ending at Grand Ave., go up Ponce DeLeon Blvd., run through woods in the new "Oaks at DeLeon Springs" subdivision and come out on Spring Garden Road to eventually connect with the SUN (shared use non-motorized) Trail on the east side of US Highway 17 once it's widened to Highway 40. There was some confusion regarding the two trails and Amy clarified that we are talking about the one that will cut through the woods near the post office, from Ponce DeLeon Blvd. to Spring Garden Rd. Hopefully Volusia County will go forward with the SUN trail along US Highway 17 to Highway 40 in advance of the 4-laning that has now been postponed for a decade.

5. Volusia County Water Quality Public Meeting update: Amy Munizzi reported the meeting was well attended. Jones Edmunds had display boards with local photographs, explaining the FDEP BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) requirements, current water quality issues and objectives, and possible options for complying with the BMAP to reduce pollution in the spring and improve our drinking water quality. People had time to walk around and learn the information, then sit in a large group and offer opinions, ask questions, etc. There seemed to be consensus that the project should begin with central wastewater and water lines from 15A, where they currently end, north up US Highway 17 to MES, so businesses can connect and get out of the code compliance problems they currently face. People questioned why FDEP representatives were not in attendance. VC Utilities followed up with information on their website with links to data, etc. Amy stated the DNJ did a somewhat sensationalized article on the issue which Amy rebutted in a Letter to the Editor, and the Beacon did a mostly accurate article on it, which Amy thanked them for in a Letter to the Editor, with corrections on a few inaccuracies. Volusia County Council Member Deb Denys stated that because water quality is an issue that has bipartisan support, they have been more effective in obtaining grants and funding for water quality issues. It is a good time to bring our community to our legislation's attention and she encourages us to continue and invite our local representatives to our meetings. Information regarding this matter can be found on the county website via this direct link:

<https://www.volusia.org/services/growth-and-resource-management/environmental-management/water-quality/deleon-spring-water-quality.stml> . Will and Robin brought up concerns over FWC's spraying along the St. John's River and killing vegetation vital to our ecosystem. Amy encouraged Will and Robin to contact FWC to express their concerns and report back at the next meeting.

6. Other business, reminders, announcements:

A. Guest Speaker: Alexandra Kinney, Executive Director of YMCA Camp Winona informed us that the camp just celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2019. They offer camp programs year-round in addition to their summer camp offerings. Some of the programs offered are riflery, archery, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, paintball, high ropes, dance, art, etc. Alex discussed the importance of building outdoor skills in our youth no matter whether we are parents or not in today's technological society. Alex further stated that the YMCA Camp experience helps instill important life skills, including but not limited to four core values:

Caring, Honesty, Respect & Responsibility. She also let us know of cabin renovations and invited everyone out to see the camp at one of the monthly open houses she holds on the last Saturday of the month.

B. ELC Duck Race, Saturday, April 25, 11:00-2:00 pm: Pat Patterson reported that he is serving as a community member on the board of the Flagler/Volusia Early Learning Coalition. In addition to state funding the community board must also raise money for the funding of the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program. For every dollar raised by the coalition, the state provides \$60.00. The event is family friendly and will be held in Port Orange. Pat brought several raffle tickets to sell at the meeting and will bring more for purchase at future DSCA events/meetings held prior to the race.

C. McInnis Elementary School Beautification Workday is Saturday, March 14th, 8-12:00 pm. All community members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please bring gardening tools, water, and wear appropriate gardening attire.

D. Dessert with a Deputy Monday, March 30th 6:00 p.m., desserts are needed, please contact Andrea Smiley if you can contribute dish.

E. 2020 DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Application and Criteria available online. Application deadline: March 31st. – Tammy Schuler reported that one application has been received so far, but we anticipate receiving more as the deadline draws near.

F. DeLeon Dispatch- Amy completed the Spring DeLeon Dispatch Newsletter and copies were provided to members to distribute within the community.

7. Public Comments: (participants have up to 4 minutes to speak):

- Amy reported that she planted plumbagoes that keep getting stolen and is open to suggestions to prevent it from reoccurring, at this time she is not planning to replace them.

-Tammy welcomed and thanked all the new members who have joined this month: including Terry and Sharon Pinder who are moving into the area, and those that joined tonight: Deb Denys, Elizabeth Lendian, Will Maestas and Stacy Stacy.

- The Van Hook Rd. neighbors reported the latest developments regarding the problem house: there is a registered sex offender in residence and the owner is conducting a homeless 'tent city'. The neighbors continue to be diligent in their efforts to properly report all incidents occurring to VCISO and they have responded often. A foreclosure auction has been scheduled and hopefully the property will be sold, and all issues resolved. Amy commended the neighbors for not 'taking the law into their own hands' in frustration, and for patiently running the course, while continuing to 'call, call, call' as the VCISO asks us to do.

8. Adjournment. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14th, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church At DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Kurczi,
Secretary