

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance: Amy Munizzi, President opened the meeting at 6:02 pm and welcomed everyone, led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introductions and Volusia County Sheriff's Office information. Everyone introduced themselves including visitors Wayne and Carolyn Smith. Wayne is an ESE teacher attending on behalf of MES and gave a brief explanation of the ESE services. VCSO's Capt. Yisrael and Lt. Barnard were also in attendance and reported on an individual who was recently apprehended in a series of vehicle break-ins. These were "crimes of opportunity" where people left keys or fobs in their vehicle making the crimes easy. Captain Yisrael reminded us to keep these out of vehicles and personal belongings out of site. VCSO sent out surveys and most issues in our area are speeding concerns and noise complaints. Crime is down in our area due to extra VCSO presence. Amy thanked Capt. Yisrael and Lt. Barnard for taking time to come and for all the work they do in our area to keep us safe. We are always impressed by how many VCSO officers we see in our area, and particularly thankful for the deputies who attend the school zone in the mornings and afternoons.

3. Guest Speaker: Oliver Gregan, Executive Director, YMCA Camp Winona. Amy welcomed and thanked Oliver for attending. Oliver has a background of eight years in outdoor recreation. He emphasized that Camp Winona wants to remain connected with our community. He reported that he hopes to have kids back at camp this summer and fundraise for the campers who can attend on scholarship. He mentioned the YMCA promotes the values of being honest, respectful, responsible and caring. There will be six weeks of camp and details for signing up can be found on their website and Oliver is available for any questions you may have. Camp Winona serves ages 6 to 16 years and also hosts the Diabetes Camp each year.

4. Acceptance of February 9th Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary thanked Jim Simmons for stepping in last month in her absence. Amy requested a motion for acceptance of the minutes. Andrea Smiley made the motion, Pastor Arch seconded and the motion carried without corrections or additions.

5. Reports:

A. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported there were very generous donations to the general fund and we are so thankful for these individuals and businesses for their support. Expenses were \$311.65, Income was \$1,798.56 and the current spending balance is \$2732.92. Colleen made the motion for approval, Roseanne Sampsell seconded, and the motion carried without corrections. Amy thanked Tammy again for all the years she has been keeping track of our finances and reports.

B. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported that the RoLHC received designation as a National Scenic Highway from the US DOT. This is an honor to be a member of only 184 "America's Byways" nationwide. It's good news for our corridor since it gives the RoLHC access to federal grants to promote ecotourism and the natural beauty along the St. John's River corridor's communities, including our bike trails, springs, etc. This is particularly good for communities like ours because it brings business to our area without the bigger negative impact on the environment that other industries can have. Amy also reported that Enterprise Museum is hosting Lost History Week March 15-21, and Blue Spring State Park is building a new manatee rescue and release area with a visitor viewing platform.

C. Chuck Lennon Park, CLP Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported that he has observed more use of the CLP fields this season than ever. There are still several sections of the mountain biking trails submerged and therefore closed which is unusual this time of year. The Monday evening rides are still occurring at 6:30 pm and all are welcome to participate. Kevin mentioned that class 2 and 3 e-bikes have throttles and are not allowed on the trails, however folks are still using them and damaging the trails. Signs have been posted to try to help educate the public.

D. Hiking Trail update: Kevin Phelps reported that Volusia County has agreed to set aside eight acres of conservation area around the eagle nest. Once that is done Tim Baylie will meet with Kevin to walk a new

area and redesign a loop trail that gets people to the seep and back, with an interpretive panel, etc. This will get walkers off the mountain bike trails and give hikers a safe and scenic trail of their own.

E. McInnis Elementary School SAC: Colleen Kurczi reported that SAC meets again this coming Thursday morning. Areas of focus from last month's meeting worth mentioning: Over \$3000 was raised by MES students for the American Heart Association during the annual Jump-rope for the Heart Challenge led by Coach Albright. The District Advisory Council (for all of VCS) reported that graduation rates for VCS is 87.7%, up 3.2 % from the previous year.

F. DeLeon Springs Trail/Spring to Spring Trail/River to Sea Loop update: Amy reported that there have been motorized vehicles on the trail and she contacted Volusia County about what deterrents were in the plans. Tim Baylie of Parks and Rec. called her to explain that the contractor still has ownership of the trail but cameras are already installed. Once the trail is transferred to VC, they will install raised, landscaped medians. Bollards are not the best deterrent option, since they can be unsafe for legitimate users in wet conditions. The cameras will help and VC will provide images to VCSO if necessary. They often hire deputies the first few months, as they did on the Osteen and Beresford trails, and that helps cut down on motorized usage. The trail will be officially open within the next few days. Amy thanked Tim for helping us understand the process, and the most effective options based on his extensive experience with these trails. Pastor Arch Fisher mentioned that he lives nearby the trail and inquired from Capt. Yisrael how to report motorized vehicles effectively since he has observed several. Capt. Yisrael suggested he take notice of any potential patterns or repeat offenders and report to VCSO directly.

G. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons© Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley thanked everyone for their donations of clipped manufacturer's coupons and reminded us they can be expired up to 30 days. She reported that 90% of the coupons are utilized in 25 countries by our troops to save money. YTD, she has collected 2 lbs.7.9 oz.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea requested more used cell phones as she must collect a minimum of 10 before she can ship them. These are shipped to the program for recycling, and the program uses the funds they receive to purchase calling cards they donate to troops to stay in touch with loved ones.

Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Tammy Schuler thanked everyone who donated items and reminded everyone that we collect non-perishable food items, paper products and child and infant care items. She will deliver whatever we collect each month to the MHS and these donations are always appreciated.

H. Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge: Amy gave a brief overview of the program that was created by DSCA, Inc. to motivate 3rd graders to grow in their reading skills at MES. Participation has been excellent. Amy said we are so grateful for JC's Bike Shop who has partnered with us and provides quality bicycles at discounted prices with donated helmets to the winners.

I. McInnis Elementary School Third Grade Adult Partners Reading Program: Colleen reported for Sharon Pinder that 10 volunteers signed up to partner with struggling MES 3rd graders to read with them each Tuesday and Thursday. Sharon has been working with Asst. Principal Joselyn Baker to implement the program. Sharon met with all the volunteers, helped set up devices, and gave them the science book they are using to read with their students about plants. Two volunteers chose to connect online from the school's Parent Resource Room, and the rest are connecting from their locations using Zoom, with few technical difficulties that were quickly resolved. The reading, sharing, and relationship building is going great. The children are well-mannered, sweet, and look forward to meeting with their partners. Sharon has had positive feedback from teachers and volunteers, about how the students are interacting and enjoying the program. School personnel will continue the program through mid-April, when testing begins, then will discuss the future of the volunteer partnership. Deanna Coleman and Colleen Kurczi both volunteer and spoke positively about what is being accomplished with these children who need this extra intervention to build reading skills.

J. Hwy 17 Corridor Water and Wastewater improvements update: Amy reported that the engineering design phase is still in progress and should be completed in April as projected. The actual construction should begin by the end of 2021, if design and permitting stays on schedule. She reminded everyone that this is an approximately three mile long project to connect with City of DeLand's current lines that end at 15A, to run north along US Highway 17, to connect to McInnis Elementary School. Several commercial landowners along that corridor are already anxious to connect, as is Volusia County Schools.

6. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. The 2021 DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Application and Criteria is available online. The application deadline is quickly approaching and applications must be postmarked by March 31st.

B. Possible donation to honor retiring MES teacher Vicki Bowser: Colleen reported that she was contacted by MES staff to request donations for a metal plaque to be placed in the Media Garden thanking Ms. Bowser for her 30+ years of service to MES and the DeLeon Spring Community. Ms. Bowser taught at MES her entire career and taught multiple generations during her time. Colleen reported that they have contacted B&N Metalworks to do the sign and it should be under \$200 to create, but we can send an email to the members with more details about the sign once we receive the information from MES. Amy asked if members were in support of participating in this and members affirmed they were, with no one stating otherwise. Colleen also reported MES will be holding a drive-by retirement celebration on March 19th from 12:00-1:00 pm for anyone who would like to come out and support her.

C. Amy handed out the Spring DeLeon Dispatch and stated it is also offered as an e-edition on our website, available at local businesses, the post office, DSSP, Pioneer Arts Settlement, etc. She thanked our sponsors for helping with printing costs and asked everyone to take several copies to their businesses, etc.

7. Public Comments: Elizabeth Lendian asked if anyone knew about burning regulations and Amy recommended she contact Forestry, or if it's something illegal, contact VC code enforcement to check into it. Pastor Arch stated he has flyers regarding their monthly community prayer service, and their weekly Celebrate Recovery program. He has contacted the county court system to let them know they have this program, for offenders with sobriety requirements from the court. Amy said more information can be obtained on both programs in the DeLeon Dispatch. Pastor Arch further reported on their monthly Food for the Journey program and reminded us they have a Free Lending Library in front of the church that is utilized quite often. Feel free to take a book, donate a book, and sit and read there on the bench.

8. Adjournment. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13th, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Kurczi