

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance: Amy Munizzi, President. Everyone introduced themselves briefly including several visitors.

2. Volusia County Sheriff's Office information: Lt. Barnard reported no significant law enforcement problems in DeLeon Springs. He left his business cards so that citizens may contact him with concerns or requests. Amy reminded us that members can contact VCSO for a house watch if needed. Amy asked Lt. Barnard if there have been reports of motorized vehicles on the new DeLeon Springs Trail and he said no. Robin Knight stated she has noticed VCSO presence in the community to deter speeding and appreciates it.

3. Acceptance of March 9^h Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary said they have been e-mailed to members and are on our website. Colleen requested a motion for acceptance. Andrea Smiley made a motion and Roseanne Sampsell seconded it; the motion carried.

4. Reports:

A. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported that monthly expenses are \$35.75; income for the month is \$425.00, leaving a spending balance of \$2,932.17. Tammy noted that she just received the invoice from B&N Metalworks and the bill came in just under the amount we had raised for the plaque for Vicki Bowser. Amy requested a motion for approval. Andrea moved approval of the report and Robin Knight seconded it. Amy asked for any corrections and hearing none the motion passed. Amy reported we have a nice positive spending balance due to generosity from our members as they paid their dues and many who gave additional and unrestricted funds to the General Fund for the benefit of our community.

B. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported that she updated them on our DeLeon Spring Trail completion, Spring Garden Ranch horse training through May, CL Mountain Biking Trails, and reminded them of our donation of a kayak launcher at DSSP. West Volusia Tourism said tourism numbers are increasing and they are continuing to promote our area, Wings of the West, River to Sea Loop, Cool Craft Trail, etc. The interpretive panel is being installed at the DeBary Sun Rail Station in May. DeLand will have streetscaping on Voorhees Ave. Enterprise Museum "Lost History" event was a success. An FDOT "Road Side Chats" virtual presentation by Maggie Ardito on the River to Sea Loop Alliance and local SUN trails was planned for April 14th. Amy commented that all these activities involve and promote DeLeon Springs as an eco-friendly tourist destination and informs locals too, of all we have to enjoy here.

C. Chuck Lennon Park, Mountain Biking Trail: Kevin Phelps reported that nothing major other than the Road and Bridge Dept. has been piling road trash in the park and it's unsightly. Kevin asked Tim Baylie to get in touch with the County to move it elsewhere. Kevin reported that Mark Meeks (who attended the meeting) and his family recently adopted a portion of the Trail to keep it in shape. Amy thanked Mark for that and also thanked Kevin for his years of dedication to the MBT and keeping it such an asset to this area.

D. CLP Hiking Trail update: Kevin Phelps reported that Parks and Rec. Director Tim Baylie has met with his boss to go over the No Vegetation Removal guidelines for CLP and they are working with Environmental Management to avoid the osprey/eagle nest as required by law. The new walking/hiking trail will go out toward the lake and include the Seep, which is an interesting land feature, with an interpretive panel to explain what it is, etc. This trail will take time but Tim is dedicated to getting it accomplished not only for walker/hiker enjoyment, but to keep walkers off the mountain biking trails as a safety concern.

E. McInnis Elementary School SAC: Colleen Kurczi reported that VCS is beginning to allow volunteers on campus on a limited basis. Volunteers must be approved by VCS and can visit the MES front office for details. The May SAC meeting will be held in person in the Media Center with a virtual option available. Sonia Larrabee also reported that the May meeting include annual elections for a two-year term; she encouraged anyone interested to attend.

F. DeLeon Springs Trail/Spring to Spring Trail/River to Sea Loop update: Amy Munizzi reported that the trail has been transferred to Volusia County. DSCA, Inc. voiced our concerns over motorized traffic with Tim Bayle. Tim said they installed “no motorized traffic” signs and cameras. Landscaped medians will be installed to inhibit motorized access. The max. speed for bicycles on VC trails is 15 MPH. Class 1 e-bikes are allowed but not class 2 or 3. Since there is no designated parking, people have been parking at the post office to access the trail. VC may construct a trailhead on Spring Garden Ave. on a parcel they may own, and we are advocating for that. There is still no official ribbon cutting planned by VC but we will stay on it.

G. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons© Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley reported that she is up to over 4 lbs. of coupons and thanked our members who bring them faithfully. Andrea also read excerpts from a military family stationed in Germany, thanking us for our contributions that help stretch their grocery budget.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley requested more cell phones; Jim Hawkins and RoseAnne Sampsell handed her several. Amy thanked Andrea for continuing to oversee these programs.

Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Tammy Schuler requested that our members provide non-perishables to help our MHS families in need. She thanked everyone for their continued donations and will deliver them to MHS. We will continue to collect through the summer.

H. Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge: Amy reported that the third graders have accumulated 4,362 points and have read 7,096,744 words. Media Specialist Lisa Bertolami told Amy that at this point, the girl with the most points has 468 and the boy with the most points has 401. The next girl has 309 and the next boy has 242, so Lisa does not believe a third bike will be needed. Amy thanked Lisa and the entire third grade team for promoting this program we created to help sharpen reading skills.

I. MES Third Grade Adult Partners Reading Program: Sharon Pinder reported that beginning Thursday anyone who wants to come on campus to read may do so. There were some technical difficulties that discouraged one of the volunteers and fortunately Terry Pinder was able to step up. The time is specific from 7:50 to 8:20 during the students’ science period. AJ Galarza reported that as a volunteer he has had a few technical difficulties but the program is rewarding to him as a volunteer and to the students. Amy thanked Sharon again for taking on this initiative and working to make the program successful for the students.

J. Hwy 17 Corridor Water and Wastewater improvements update: Amy contacted VC Utilities Engineer Erin Reed who said they are currently in the 30% design phase. There has been a slight delay, but final design is expected to be complete by the end of August or beginning of September. Construction is still expected to begin by the end of 2021. Amy also gave a brief synopsis of this program and reminded members it’s up to us to continue to spread accurate information about it, since there is much misinformation. Amy requested DSSP Manager Ken Torres give a brief explanation of the aerobic systems that were installed there and how they are supposed to work. He did, and stated that he met with FDEP regarding the possibility of extending the lines to DSSP once they get to MES, so they can get off those systems.

K. Sign to honor retiring teacher Vicki Bowser: Colleen Kurczi reported that the sign is complete and was installed by B&N Metal Works today. The cost was just under \$180 and we did receive enough donations to cover all of it. A ceremony is planned for Ms. Bowser but MES has yet to set the date for it. Colleen thanked everyone for their generosity especially because the administration was planning to contribute as well but we were able to cover the entire cost.

L. 2021 DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship(s): Tammy Schuler gave a brief synopsis of the Scholarship program. Because the family of Cliff McInnis asked for donations to the fund in lieu of flowers, the scholarship line item is larger than usual. The DSCA, Inc. Board met to review the three applications that were submitted and agreed all candidates met and exceeded the qualifications for the scholarships and they would like to award three equal \$1,000 scholarships. Tammy made a motion that we move \$475 from the General Fund to make the fund an even \$3,000 to accomplish this and Andrea seconded it. Amy called for discussion and the responses were positive. The motion carried with no opposition. Amy will notify the winners.

5. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. Camp Winona programs and fundraising information: Amy stated that we have an anonymous donor offering up to \$500 in matching funds to allow us to sponsor up to two MES students that Sonia Larrabee

has identified as needing scholarships to attend camp this summer. Amy stated that we have traditionally sponsored MES students, and one year a Taylor High student, to attend each year and awarded this along with a certificate at their end of year ceremonies, but schools were not able to do this last year. Sonia reported they have identified three MES sibling students with a great need for this due to tragic family circumstances. MES still has \$500 donated by the owner of Bellini's last year specified to sponsor an ESE student and MES has identified one that is in need as well. With additional funds, MES is able to sponsor two of the four students. Amy said she would like to move that we take \$500 from the General Fund to take advantage of this matching offer, so we would have a total of \$1,000 to sponsor these two students. Discussion ensued in support of the idea but some asked if we usually requested donations for this. Amy said yes, but this year we already have funds in the General Fund for our use. Jim Simmons reiterated the motion that we take the \$500 from the General Fund, accept the \$500 match and sponsor two MES students to Camp Winona. Andrea Smiley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Oliver Gregan, Executive Director, YMCA Camp Winona thanked everyone and spoke regarding the importance of camp and the values and opportunities it can provide to a child. He added that the camp itself is always in need of support. People can donate via pledge cards he brought, and specify if it's for a scholarship, or something such as soccer balls, etc. Or if people want to purchase items or even donate things they don't need, they would appreciate it. Oliver handed out the cards and will have them available at meetings. He is also looking for camp counselors.

B. Median coontie maintenance: Amy stated that we received a grant several years ago from Volusia County to purchase and install coontie fern in the medians of DeLeon Springs, since they are native plants and require little maintenance. However, they do require some attention and it is hard for untrained volunteers to do, especially on the busy highway. Amy contacted Juan Mancilla of Cutting-Edge Lawn and Grounds Maintenance to ask if they could provide their professional services again this year. Juan generously offered to commit his company to do this for us at no charge. Amy said we owe thanks to Juan and the Cutting Team for their kind offer and they will work on this within a week or so between other jobs.

6. Public Comments: Jim Simmons requested we revisit some of our past line items that no longer show on the Treasurer's Report, such as the Wildcat 5-K, backpacks, food drive, etc. Amy explained that we previously agreed to set aside funds for specific things at the beginning of the year when dues come in because they are expensive and we committed to them as a group (i.e., the Scholarship, Thanksgiving Baskets). The Wildcat 5-K was one of those, but Taylor stopped doing it so we deleted that line item. Other things like backpacks, warm clothing and food drives change from year to year in the amount needed, so we bring those to the membership as they come up and ask for donations or vote to fund them from the General Fund. While we have agreed we want to support these things, we leave it up to members to decide how much we can afford to do as they arise, and also request donations, then participate based on the funds we have. Colleen mentioned that the January minutes are on our website for anyone who wants to review the benevolence projects that the membership agreed to for 2021.

7. Adjournment. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Kurczi, Secretary