

**DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance: Amy Munizzi, President welcomed everyone. Pastor Arch Fisher led the prayer and Amy asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves.

2. Volusia County Sheriff's Office information: Lt. Barnard was in attendance and did not have any outstanding problems to report as things remain mostly law abiding in our community. Amy reported that there is an article in the DeLeon Dispatch with helpful information from the VCSO and thanked Lt Barnard.

3. Acceptance of April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary asked for a motion of acceptance of last month's minutes, Andrea Smiley made the motion, Jim Simmons seconded; the motion carried.

4. Reports:

A. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported that we have an available spending balance of \$2,146.13, which includes income of \$995 and \$496.04 in expenses. The line item for the Teacher Appreciation will fall off next month. Arch Fisher moved to approve the report and Andrea seconded. No discussion and the motion carried.

B. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported that "National Scenic Byway" signs will be designed and installed on the current signs along the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor by FDOT. This recent national designation is a prestigious award and offers the possibility of federal grant funds for local use. Amy reported to them about our DeLeon Springs Trail Ribbon Cutting and Maggie Ardito reported to them on the Gobbler's Gap Ribbon Cutting.

C. Chuck Lennon Park, Chuck Lennon Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported that all previously flooded trails are now open. The directional signs have been placed and trail travel will be reversed during weekends. This will help maintain the trails and encourage tourism for a new experience each day. Kevin reported that there will be an upgrade to the Volusia County website, as per Tim Baylie to create a page specific to the Chuck Lennon Mountain Biking Trails, since they have such an outstanding reputation in the State and have become so popular. Plans for a concrete sidewalk/path have been put on hold due to costs.

D. Chuck Lennon Park Hiking Trail update: Kevin Phelps reported that they are still working on the environmental issues and Kevin is waiting on an update from Tim Baylie, VC Parks and Rec. The latest inquiry was regarding whether any trees over 6 inches were removed, and there have not been. Kevin stated Tim is an excellent advocate for all trails and has continued to work hard to encourage a resolution for the creation of the trail. Amy stated this trail is important because it's not only a healthful amenity for use but a safety need, as it would offer an alternative for walkers/hikers and keep them off the mountain biking trails. Discussion ensued and some members expressed frustration that this has gone on so long and stated it appears the Environmental Management department is opposed to this trail, since they seem to continually throw up roadblocks to it. Members asked if it was time that County Council be involved and one member stated his neighbor is a Councilman and would be glad to bring it up with him. Amy stated anyone is free to speak with County Council members over issues of concern, but we would like to work with the departments to get this accomplished, if possible.

E. McInnis Elementary School SAC: Colleen Kurczi reported that the May SAC Meeting will be held this Thursday at 7:00 am in the MES Media Center. A virtual option is still available. SAC elections will be held in which members may be elected to serve 2-year terms.

F. DeLeon Springs Trail/Spring to Spring Trail/River to Sea Loop update and event: Amy Munizzi reported that she contacted Tim Baylie to ask if Volusia County was going to do a ribbon cutting; if not the DSCA, Inc. wanted to host an event to celebrate the opening of the trail. She contacted District 1 Councilman Barb Girtman who agreed Volusia County could do one and they set a date for May 22, 10:30 am. Volusia County took it from there and made it an official event. DSCA, Inc., River to Sea TPO, and River to Sea Loop Alliance will all have booths near the ribbon cutting area and DSUMC has graciously allowed parking in their lot for this. This event is free and anyone can come to enjoy the trail in a non-motorized way. River to Sea Loop Alliance will host a round-trip trail ride from Fichter Trailhead that includes a celebration lunch at DSSP

and riders can register for that on their website. Tickets for the celebration trail ride and picnic at DSSP are \$30 or \$10 for the celebration trail ride only. Maggie Ardito handed out flyers and Amy has placed them at the area post offices. Information is on our Facebook page and the River to Sea Loop Alliance website. Maggie said they are almost sold out so act fast.

G. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley reported that about 90% of the coupons are being utilized by soldiers who are stationed worldwide. To date she has collected 4 lbs. 13.4 oz. of coupons.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea reported that she is still collecting cell phones and accessories for this program that provides calling cards for soldiers by the organization recycling the phones. She recently mailed out 5 lbs. 4 oz. and just received more from DeLand Knights of Columbus tonight.

Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Tammy Schuler reported that we will continue to collect through the summer so please continue to donate non-perishables and baby items. Amy thanked the membership for continuing to support all of these valuable causes.

H. Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge: MES Principal Paul Struska reported on behalf of Lisa Bertolami. He states that the end of the year award ceremonies will be held on June 3rd and 4th, and at that time DSCA, Inc. will present the bicycles, helmets and certificates to the highest scoring boy and girl. Paul spoke in detail about the reading counts program and how this challenge encourages students at all levels to participate in reading.

I. MES Third Grade Adult Partners Reading Program: Sharon Pinder reported that despite the technical issues experienced via Zoom, it has been an overall positive experience. She further reported that volunteers are now able to participate in person on campus. Both Sharon Pinder and fellow volunteer Robin Knight spoke highly of the administration at MES with special accolades for Mr. Paul Struska, MES Principal.

J. Hwy 17 Corridor Water and Wastewater improvements update: Amy Munizzi reported that she contacted Erin Reed, Volusia County Water and Utilities Engineer who said the final design is expected to be completed by the end of September 2021 now. The project would then be expected to start construction by the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022. Amy stated this is how construction goes, but the project will happen.

K. Sign installation honoring retiring teacher Vicki Bowser: Amy stated that the sign was installed by B&N Metalworks in the Media Garden at MES. A small ceremony was held by MES teachers and staff. At that time Amy unveiled the sign on behalf of the DSCA, Inc. and Vicki was very pleased and honored. Amy thanked everyone who contributed private donations to honor Vicki, who spent her entire teaching career at MES and retired after 31 years there. Amy also thanked Colleen for bringing this to our attention and advocating for our involvement over this special situation with this instructor.

L. 2021 DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarships Awards and possible reception in June: Tammy Schuler reported that we were able to award three \$1,000.00 awards, as agreed upon by our members at the April meeting. Jahira Gonzales, Bryce Barkalow and Slade Henderson will each receive \$1,000. All are Taylor Middle-High School Seniors and DeLeon Springs residents. Scholarship funds go directly to the university they will attend. The Taylor Senior Awards ceremony will be held May 26<sup>th</sup>. Amy will attend to award their certificates. She requested approval for a reception for them at our June meeting and all agreed.

M. Camp Winona Scholarships Awards at MES: Sonia Larrabee thanked DSCA, Inc. for raising the \$1,000 (\$500 from general fund, \$500 in matching funds from an anonymous donor) needed to sponsor two MES students to Camp Winona for a week. She reported that they are also raising money for five other students and have a Sonny's Fundraiser Thursday, May 27th, 5-9 pm. Amy requested that we receive the names of the two students we will sponsor so we can present certificates to them at the MES awards in June. Sonia said June 13th is the tentative week for the camp scholarship recipients to attend and we are invited to help welcome them as they arrive at camp.

5. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. MES Teacher Appreciation Breakfast report: Amy said this request came to us after the April DSCA, Inc. meeting so our Board agreed to participate if we had private donations for it, since we didn't have time to bring it to the membership for discussion. \$100 in breakfast items were donated and \$300 was donated privately. With that money DSCA, Inc. purchased muffins, bagels, fresh fruits, etc. for a breakfast on Tuesday and one on Thursday. We set them up in the Teacher's Lounge along with 'grab and go' bags

so teachers could take what they liked if they didn't have time to stay. Other organizations sponsored raffle items or covered other days so the teachers were treated to a week filled with tangible thanks for all they do. Amy asked Paul Struska to report on the week and he said teachers were so grateful and several stated this was the best teacher appreciation week they have experienced. Notable community contributions also came from the Courtyard Marriott and the Brandywine Winn Dixie.

B. DeLeon Springs Trail Ribbon Cutting and Trail Ride, Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 am. Amy reminded everyone how hard we have worked to get Volusia County to do this event and said we need to have our community come out for this so please spread the word. It's free and everyone is invited; lots of free snacks and trail items; and the organized trail ride, celebration and lunch at DSSP will be fun for those who register and participate. Maggie reminded everyone this organized trail ride is almost sold out.

C. Possible summer MES volunteer project: Sharon Pinder reported that Sonia Larrabee has requested assistance with reorganizing her STEM/science room. Sharon is requesting funds and volunteers for this project. This is just step one of the planning phase. Some workdays will be planned. Sonia is preparing an application for a grant from Tangier Outlets due June 30 and this project will be done over summer break. Sharon asked for volunteers and discussion ensued. Amy requested that Sonia and Sharon choose a day for a few volunteers to come visit the room, make a list of what is needed and then we can request items and/or funds via e-mail. Sonia and Sharon will let us know and all agreed to go from there.

D. DSCA, Inc. Motto review: Amy explained that years ago when the DSCA, Inc. first incorporated, she began to add "Working to Make DeLeon Springs A Better Place to Live, Work and Play" as a motto for what we were trying to accomplish. Over time it changed to "Making DeLeon Springs A Better Place to Live, Work and Play". She recently noticed it being used elsewhere and wondered if we might want to change it since it's relatively common, or leave it as is. Discussion ensued. Jim Simmons offered an alternative motto. Andrea Smiley made a motion to keep it as is; Arch Fisher seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

E. June meeting date change from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>? Amy asked if we could change the June meeting date to June 15<sup>th</sup> since she is not available on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and incorporate a reception for the three DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship winners, since we usually do that in June. Andrea made a motion for both the date change and hosting the reception during that meeting. Roseanne Sampsell seconded, and the motion carried. Kevin reminded Amy to change the date on our website.

#### 6. Public Comments:

Amy reported that she was contacted by a member of the Volusia Forever Committee who said they are conducting public listening sessions and the DSCA, Inc. might want to participate. Amy asked the DSCA, Inc. Board if we should urge them to look to our area for the creation of conservation easements and land purchases, while we still have so much undeveloped land, farms and forest area. And particularly because we have a BMAP here, this would help protect water quality to put some of these lands in conservation. The DSCA, Inc Board agreed. Amy asked if everyone was in support of this. Discussion ensued and all agreed we would like to keep the rural nature of our area, etc. and that we should send a letter stating those things and also attend a meeting if able. Members particularly requested protections for forested areas beyond Hwy 11, and family farms. Amy will try to attend one of the meetings to make those suggestions and will also send a letter incorporating our concerns and suggestions based on Volusia Forever's newer mandates.

Maggie Ardito gave a brief explanation of the ECHO program and stated that grants could benefit Chuck Lennon Park, particularly for the trail/path along the road at Chuck Lennon Park that Kevin has advocated for. There is an annual set aside of \$1,000,000 in ECHO for trails, that Volusia County Parks & Recreation might be able to access for this much needed safety improvement. Amy asked Kevin to look into it.

Pastor Arch Fisher announced that the DeLeon Springs United Methodist Church picnic is also being held May 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the Trail Ribbon Cutting, at 4:00 PM and all are welcome. He further stated that folks are welcome to park in the church lot for trail use any time, and Amy thanked him for the church's generosity.

7. Adjournment. **Next meeting and Merit Scholarship Reception: Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.,** The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colleen Kurczi, Secretary