

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
The Christian Church At DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

1. Members agreed to meet inside instead of outdoors as previously planned, due to the heat. Amy Munizzi, President called the meeting to order, led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, and past member Orion Maier introduced himself. Amy welcomed him back after three years overseas, though he is only in the area briefly.

2. Acceptance of May 12th Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary. Andrea Smiley made a motion to accept, Jim Simmons seconded the motion, all were in favor.

3. Review and Acceptance of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer, reported that our total income for the month is \$1,359.46, expenses are \$3,966.49. Current checkbook balance is \$15,114.86; available spending balance is -\$1,574.24. Andrea made a motion to approve the report, Kevin seconded the motion, all were in favor. Amy noted that we do not operate in the red, but that we have line items we back out so those funds are ready when needed, and this 'negative spending balance' shows that we are doing our job in expending all we have in service to this community. Members nodded in agreement.

4. Reports:

A. DeLeon Springs Trail and Spring to Spring Trail/River2Sea Loop update: Amy Munizzi reported that the two sections of trail are currently being constructed. One is a connector to the trail that ends at Grand Ave. and is a concrete trail along Ponce DeLeon Blvd. The other is a paved trail running through the newly proposed "Oaks of DeLeon Springs" residential subdivision and will come out at Spring Garden Ave. to eventually connect to the SUN Trail proposed along US Highway 17 to Highway 40. Amy stressed that all of this is part of the St. John's River2SeaLoop, that will eventually run a circuit from the St. John's River, to the Atlantic Ocean and back. There has been a lot of misunderstanding regarding all these trail names so we need to work at brand recognition to lessen the confusion.

B. McInnis Elementary School SAC and PTA: Colleen Kurczi had no report due to no May meetings.

C. Fifth Grade Awards Day: Amy Munizzi said the day was a great success, thanks to the generosity of the DSCA, Inc. in purchasing the beach balls, goodie bags and all the items to fill them for all 54 graduates. The MES staff did a great job honoring the graduates in this unique time and Amy enjoyed representing the DSCA, Inc. in honoring and encouraging each student as they arrived.

D. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board Meeting: Janice Russak did not attend, Amy was not available to attend the Microsoft meeting due to a prior commitment.

E. Water and Wastewater improvements update: Amy Munizzi stated the County Council passed the acceptance of a \$2.5 million dollar FDEP grant for this business infrastructure, designed to protect water quality, and DeLeon Spring, by getting the business corridor off antiquated, leaking septic systems and old or shared wells. Included in the grant is hopefully enough money left at the end of construction to offer incentive money for free hook-ups to businesses, saving them additional funds. Amy said this is nothing short of a miracle, since the DSCA, Inc. had worked so diligently to get these critical improvements a decade ago but at that time, Volusia County required it be paid for by a Special Assessment District the landowners would have had to pay back. Along with the passing of that grant for these improvements, Volusia County Utilities was recommending that "The Oaks" subdivision be asked to connect to these services, and DSCA, Inc. sent a letter of support for this to Volusia County Utilities, because we are opposed to 100 +/- homes with that many individual septic systems, that would also be drawing water that close to the Spring. The developer is apparently now waiting to build, to avoid what could become a protracted legal battle on this issue.

F. Chuck Lennon Park and CLP Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported the Park is open and so are the trails, although the excessive rain has made some trails unusable for a while.

G. Chuck Lennon Park Hiking Trail Changes: Kevin Phelps reported the Hiking Trail has been derailed by Volusia County Environmental Management who stated there was an eagle's nest close by. This is two years after the trail was discussed, started, and completed, with VCEM inspector approval during the process, that they halted this project with this tactic. Kevin, Pat Patterson, Amy, Tim Baylie/Parks and Rec., FWC, Ginger Adair/VCEM and some of her staff met there to walk the trail and there is indeed a nest, although some of the statements made about eagle chicks in the nest, eagle activity, a fish carcass in the nest and bones below, did not appear true. In response, Amy hired a private drone operator who came out and took photos of the nest from above and then sent them to Audubon Florida's EagleWatch for independent ID, because we lacked confidence in the motivations and statements of VCEM. Audubon Florida's EagleWatch stated it could be an osprey nest, or eagle nest because they share nests. VCEM offered an alternate path that Kevin and Amy walked. Though there had been little rain for over a month the area was wet and mucky, and takes walkers to nothing but a distant, slight view of the lake. Kevin did an independent walkthrough to come up with an alternate path with the required distance from the nest and Tim Baylie is working with an independent environmental specialist to reroute the trail. At this point we feel it best to voice our concerns over the negativity of VCEM staff, since these lands are public lands, paid for by the public, with public tax dollars. Amy asked for a vote of support from members to continue pursuing the hiking trail. Andrea made this motion, Janice seconded, all were in favor.

H. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley said there was no collection this month but she still has 3 lbs. 13 oz. of coupons and she wrote a letter asking if she can resume sending the coupons.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea said there is no collection this month but she has 4 lbs. 3.5 oz. sanitized and ready to be mailed out.

McInnis Elementary School "CCDS and DSCA, Inc. Adopt-a-Family" food drive: Juan and Lucy Mancilla have been distributing our food donations to families in need with children at MES while MES staff are busy with end-of-school year activities. MES has another drive/delivery scheduled for June 30. Robin Knight asked for us to e-mail the list of needs prior to Father's Day so they could request items from their congregation to be donated at that Sunday's service. Colleen Kurczi has gotten the Mom's Club of DeLand involved, and Tammy Schuler is keeping us on track about what donations have come in and what we have purchased. Amy has used the funds during BOGOs and has saved over \$150 doing this, giving us more money to purchase more food.

I. Ride Into Reading Awards: Amy Munizzi reported that thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to purchase a third bike and helmet from JC's Bikes & Boards because there was a second girl who had scored extremely high and MES staff wanted her work to be acknowledged. The principal, vice principal, media specialist and teacher all met Amy at MES yesterday with the bikes, helmets, DSCA, Inc. certificate, Reading Counts certificate, goodie bags and balloons for each of the three winners, and drove in a caravan to each student's home to surprise them with the awards. Boy winner: Alejandro Santiago with 302 points; Girls winners: Laurel Ashley with 706 points and Abigail Kavanah with 609 points.

J. Kayak launcher at DSSP: Melissa Borghorst had to leave early but reported to Amy that the amount needed was \$2584.00 and we met that goal. Donors included: Melissa Borghorst and family, Wayne and Alita Allen, Mark and Tammy Schuler, Happy Daisy Farms and Lee and Amy Munizzi. DSSP Manager Ken Torres and his staff donated their time and expertise to install it yesterday. A ceremonial launch party will be held soon. Janice Russak reported the Friends of the DeLeon Springs State Park were grateful for the DSCA, Inc.'s efforts.

K. October 17th Autumn in the Oaks Art, Music and Crafts Festival location, update: Amy reported that the owner of the property at 5489 Spring Garden Ranch Rd. (Corner of U.S. Highway 17 North and Spring Garden Ranch Rd.) has fenced the property with gates, has the well and electric in and is building a stage now. The location will be called Spring Garden Park and we will refer to the location as the Spring Garden Park Grounds. The event will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday October 17th and will include live music, food vendors, arts, crafts, nonprofit and public interest booths. Amy spoke with the Forestry Division and they are interested in coordinating their event with ours to give our community a bigger event. COPs will be working and VCSO will provide an electronic trailer board to notify motorists to slow down.

5. Other business, reminders, announcements:

A. DSCA, Inc. Board and officer changes: Amy stated that Jason Sampsell has served as Vice President of the DSCA, Inc. since 2018 and has requested to roll off the position. Kevin Phelps has agreed to take the position, since he currently serves on the DSCA, Inc. Board and is very involved in many initiatives that are important to DeLeon Springs. The DSCA, Inc. Board and members extend our gratitude to Jason for his service to this organization and this community, and welcome Kevin to this position. We thank both for their time and talents.

B. Town of Pierson July 4th Family Festival support request Tammy Schuler reported that they have requested our sponsorship again, and we usually sponsor at the \$100 level. Amy stated we in turn ask them to sponsor our festivals at the \$200.00 level and asked if members wanted to have a reciprocal relationship of each just giving each \$200 or sponsor them at the \$100 or \$250 level. Doug Knight made a motion that we sponsor at the \$250 level; Robin Knight seconded, and all were in favor.

C. Reception for DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship recipient Jenny Rodriguez: Amy stated that normally we do this at the June meeting, but since we were still planning to meet outside it would have been difficult to do. Amy spoke with Jenny and she will leave in September for university. Amy asked if members wanted to have a joint celebration at the August 11 meeting for both DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship recipient Jenny Rodriguez and the DSCA, Inc. Ninth Birthday Celebration. Tammy made that motion, Amy seconded, and all were in favor. Members agreed that DSCA, Inc. will provide pizza, waters, and a cake to honor Jenny. CCDS will direct us as to where to set up and to eat and we will do so indoors.

D. DSCA, Inc. Board meeting June 16th with Volusia County Growth and Resource Management: Community Goals. Amy stated that some of our Board members are meeting to discuss community goals and changes to the VC Comprehensive Plan to protect our area from unbridled growth and any path away from the quaint, rural community we enjoy, should we not put these things in place now. Amy opened the floor for suggestions of what we would like to see DeLeon Springs be in the future, and what protections and provisions we would like to see placed in the Comprehensive Plan. The following points were identified as community goals: 1) Develop the business corridor with adequate water and wastewater infrastructure. 2) Have our community stay small, quaint, and rural. 3) Limit the height of buildings; any "high-density" to be infill in the 'downtown' areas, and where the density is already zoned that way. 4) Retain existing zoning in outer lying areas, with 10 acre minimums where they currently are. 5) No hi-density subdivisions. 6) Focus on protecting the environment and rural heritage of the area. 7) Focus on expanding eco-tourism opportunities such as kayaking, biking, hiking trails, etc. 8) Move forward with the SUN trail development along US Highway 17, with funding dedicated to getting that completed to Highway 40, with or without the widening project. Amy stated that we would meet with VCG&RM and report back at the next meeting.

E. Early Learning Coalition Duck Race September 12th: Pat Patterson has tickets for this event but was unable to attend the meeting. Amy will resend the information.

F. Amy stated she received an e-mail from a DSCA, Inc. member stating concern over a religious phrase on the Porter House sign. Amy responded that the sign belongs to the Malmborg and Clayton families, as does that property and building. These families were kind enough to allow us to continue to place our meeting information on the sign, but whatever else they choose to place on it is their prerogative. Colleen proposed that we post an explanation on the DSCA, Inc. social media page acknowledging the families who own the sign and thanking them for allowing us to continue to post our meeting information there for a while.

6. Amy asked if members wanted to meet in July or take that month off. Tammy moved that we take July off and meet again on August 11, 2020. Elizabeth Lendian seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: DSCA, Inc. Ninth Birthday Celebration and DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Winner Reception, Tuesday, August 11th, 6:00 p.m., at The Christian Church At DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Kurczi,
Secretary