

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting and 10th Birthday Celebration Minutes
Tuesday, August 10, 2021

1. DSCA, Inc. 10th Birthday Celebration: everyone in attendance spent some time catching up and enjoying birthday cake served by Tammy Schuler and Andrea Smiley.

2. Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions and accomplishments: Amy Munizzi, President welcomed everyone and Pastor Arch Fisher prayed. Amy led the Pledge and everyone introduced themselves. Amy presented our list of accomplishments (bottom of minutes) this year and the list was quite impressive. She thanked everyone for their contributions of time, funds and talents to make all of it possible.

3. Volusia County Sheriff's Office information: VSCO was unable to attend this evening.

4. Acceptance of June 15, 2021, Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary. Andrea Smiley made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Tammy Schuler seconded. The motion carried.

5. Reports:

A. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported that we had income of \$1,240.00, expenses are \$3,776.64 and we have an available spending balance of \$1,477.60. She received an additional \$250 in line-item contributions immediately prior to the meeting. Arch Fisher moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Andrea seconded; the motion carried.

B. Chuck Lennon Park Walking Trail update: Amy Munizzi reported that she received a call from VC Parks and Rec. Director Tim Baylie saying that staff have identified the wetlands and the required 50' buffer. He will set up a day to walk the proposed layout with Kevin Phelps soon so they can proceed.

C. Chuck Lennon Park, Chuck Lennon Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported the park roads are flooding and some of the water is being redirected off the road and onto the mountain biking trails, which he is addressing with park staff. All but two trails are temporarily closed due to water, and few are riding right now due to heat and weather. Kevin further reported that he has been performing research on how to better armor the trails so that he can meet with Tim Baylie and come up with solutions to ensure people can utilize the trails year-round. Kevin also mentioned that the organization that heads up trail maintenance, previously called Flagler Area Biking, has changed its name to Florida Association of Single-Track Riders (FASTER). Their group formed the same year as DSCA, Inc. and will be celebrating their 10th anniversary soon.

D. FDOT meeting to accelerate roundabout construction with trail: Amy Munizzi met with FDOT staff, Volusia County engineering staff and District 1 Councilman Barb Girtman to discuss breaking up the Highway 17 to Highway 40 widening project into segments so FDOT could move forward earlier than 2032 with construction on the widening of Hwy. 17 from MES to include the proposed roundabout at Spring Garden Ranch Rd. and continue the SUNTrail associated with it. FDOT agreed to break it into four segments and make that segment first-priority, from Ponce DeLeon Blvd. to Lake Winona Rd. with the proposed roundabout at Spring Garden Ranch Rd. and the trail extension, with possible trailhead. Barb Girtman agreed to bring it up at the TPO meeting and work toward identifying funding options. Second priority is the segment including a roundabout at the intersection of Hwy. 17 and Hwy. 40. There is still no timeframe for the construction to begin any of it but segmenting it makes it possible to get moving as funds become available.

E. MES Science Lab volunteer project: Sharon Pinder reported that volunteers met a few hours at a time over summer to assist Sonia Larrabee with reorganizing and sorting all the science lab supplies that she stores for all grades (K-5). They finished sorting and categorizing and have ordered supplies to finalize the project. They hope to receive supplies soon and finish the project within a week. Volunteers are welcome.

F. Hwy 17 Corridor Water and Sewer improvements update: Amy Munizzi reported that the engineering is proceeding and the project is still on target for construction in early spring, 2022. She attended

a FDEP BMAP conference via Teams to hear about the progress on Basin Management Action Plans currently in place in only 13 of the 30 Outstanding Florida Springs. She said that DeLeon Spring is one of three Outstanding Florida Springs with BMAPs in Volusia County and we were fortunate to receive the \$2,500,000 grant when we did for this project before more BMAPs were in place and grant funds were taken.

G. Benevolence:

Andrea Smiley gave a brief description of the coupon and cell phone programs.

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea reported that she received a letter thanking us for our continued support from service members in Japan and Germany. To date she has collected 6 lbs. 14.4 oz. of coupons and has more ready to be shipped.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea received two cell phones at the meeting and has collected 15lbs. 10oz of cell phones (and accessories) to date.

One of our members asked if Box Tops are collected and Sharon Pinder reported MES does.

McInnis Elementary School Backpack Drive: Tammy Schuler reported that this is an annual event we ask members to contribute to and we received enough donations to purchase 90 backpacks and school supplies. School supplies were also donated by the Christian Church at DeLeon Springs and masks were donated by Family Health Source. Tammy thanked everyone who contributed and said this is a huge accomplishment and the most backpacks we have been able to purchase since the drive started. Amy requested volunteers to assist with filling backpacks with the donated supplies after the meeting. MES Principal Paul Struska reported that Sparton Electronics has partnered with United Way, and they have donated 200 bundles of school supplies based on grade level needs. Paul further reported there is a new CEO at Sparton with a new vision for the company and hopes to implement a volunteer program. Mr. Struska said MES enrollment is up to almost 400 students for the 2021-2022 school year and shared a bit about new Assistant Principal Dr. Cortez who lives locally and plans to attend DSCA, Inc. meetings.

H. DeLeon Springs Trail improvements: Amy Munizzi reported that Tim Baylie called to say median islands are under construction with one at the Ponce DeLeon Blvd. end. The one at the Spring Garden Ave. end was not placed in the right area so they are creating an additional island. Once the islands are finished there will be fencing placed at each entrance and signs stating the area is under surveillance to keep motorized vehicles off the trail.

6. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. DSSP Kayak launcher signage: Amy spoke with DSSP Manager Ken Torres who said they recently received their fiscal funding and will be able to create a sign near the kayak launcher so people know what it is and to thank the DSCA, Inc. for donating it.

7. Public Comments:

Amy requested any articles for the newsletter be submitted within the next week.

Tom and Betty Smith attended and reported a complaint regarding dangerous speeding along Ponce DeLeon Blvd. Tom said it's excessive and he fears someone will be killed. He has flagged down VCSO vehicles to share his complaint. Amy advised Tom to contact the VCSO with specifics, (vehicle, tag number, etc.) at the time the event happens so they can send an officer to the scene. Kevin Phelps said every time someone calls, that call is logged so there's a record of the number of complaints they've received. Amy gave Tom Sgt. Barnard's business card and urged him to "call, call, call", as the VCSO has advised us.

Paul Struska reported some updates at MES: upgrades to the Media Center; a new playground shade to be installed in the fall over the kindergarten playground; a return of field trips and each grade will have four trips per year, with varied location visits over the course of their elementary school years.

Colleen reported her new position as Vice President of the MES PTA. Amy said she will be a great connection for us with MES and thanked Colleen for serving in this role.

Amy asked Sharon Pinder if she might be serving with the Friends of DeLeon Springs State Park and she said possibly. Members agreed we previously had a productive relationship with Friends and all hoped to see the organization revived as Sharon would be an asset to Friends and a good connection with DSCA, Inc.

8. Amy adjourned the meeting and invited anyone who could stay, to fill backpacks for McInnis Elementary School. Colleen, Tammy, Paul, Amy and Andrea all stayed to fill them and loaded them into Paul's and Amy's vehicles for deliver to MES.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14th, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Happy 10th Birthday Deleon Springs Community Association, Inc.! **Here's what you've accomplished so far in 2021:**

JANUARY:

- Completed the McInnis Elementary School Teacher's Lounge Makeover Project, by repainting the room, purchasing and installing comfortable chairs, ottomans, tables, a CD player, custom window treatments and two new coffee makers.
- Hosted our Annual Visioning Meeting and received input from members for what they would dedicate time and resources to in 2021.
- Sent information about the DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Application and Criteria to the press, local schools and organizations and posted both documents to our website.

FEBRUARY:

- Coordinated with McInnis Elementary School and the Florida Department of Transportation to draft and implement safety changes to include additional markings and reduced speed in the School Zone.
- Attended a ceremony to honor MES Counselor Sara Montalvo who was awarded the Volusia County Schools Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award. The DSCA, Inc. presented her with a gift card, flowers and certificate in appreciation of all she does for our community's children and families.

MARCH:

- Published the Spring Edition of the DeLeon Dispatch Newsletter.
- Raised funds to donate a plaque, created to honor retiring MES teacher Vicki Bowser, who served our community as a teacher there for 31 years.
- Contributed landscaping stones to the MES "Media Center Rock Garden" project so students could create and display original artwork on rocks in the Media Garden.

APRIL:

- DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarship Board met and chose Taylor High School seniors Jahira Gonzales, Bryce Barkalow and Slade Henderson as the 2021 scholarship recipients. DSCA, Inc. members voted to fund the scholarships at \$1,000.00 each, with additional contributions from donations in memory of Archibald Clifford "Cliff" McInnis.

MAY:

- Hosted two Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts for MES teachers and staff to show them our gratitude for all they do for the children of our community.
- Provided input for Volusia Forever's listening session with a letter and map to be placed in the record of the Volusia Forever Listening Sessions and shared with their committee and staff. Included in the letter was a copy of the DeLeon Springs Basin and Priority Focus Area map referred to in the letter, requesting attention be paid to acquiring water recharge areas, preservation of long leaf pine areas and small farm easements. The letter was followed up with attendance at the May Listening Session.
- Helped coordinate a DeLeon Springs Trail Ribbon Cutting ceremony with Volusia County, that included a trail ride and to DeLeon Springs State Park for a trail celebration picnic. The DSCA, Inc.,

St. John's River to Sea Loop Alliance, River to Sea TPO and VC Parks and Rec all had booths with refreshments, trail information and giveaways. Speakers included County Chair Jeff Brower, District 1 Councilman Barb Girtman, Loop Alliance President Maggie Ardito, West Volusia Tourism Director Georgia Turner and DSCA, Inc. President Amy Munizzi.

- Awarded THREE DSCA, Inc. Merit Scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 each, to Taylor Middle-High School Seniors and DeLeon Springs residents Jahira Gonzales, Bryce Barkalow and Slade Henderson.
- Raised \$1000 to award McInnis Elementary School students Matthew Alejo and Andrew Alejo each a \$500 Campership for a week to Camp Winona during summer.
- Met with Clay Ervin, Director of VC Growth & Resource Management; Ginger Adair, Director of VC Environmental Management, Dona Butler, Director of VC Community Services and Tim Baylie, Director of VC Parks and Recreation to discuss the issues holding up the Chuck Lennon Park walking trail that was completed in 2020 but abandoned due to an osprey/eagle nest. Staff recognized a need for increased communication between departments Staff will identify the wetlands line, revisit the plat to 'clean it up', removing things like a previous road still shown running through the ball fields, etc. with a goal of a safe, quiet walking trail of approximately one mile and to include "the seep".

JUNE:

- Presented two new DSCA, Inc. Ride into Reading Third Grade Challenge bicycles to winners Rachael Richmond and Daniel Dover. Their certificates, bikes and helmets were awarded at the MES Third grade ceremony. Special thanks to JC's Bikes and Boards for donating the helmets. This marks 17 bikes DSCA, Inc. has awarded in the eight years since DSCA, Inc. created this reading program.
- Met with FDOT staff, Volusia County engineering staff and District 1 Councilman Barb Girtman to discuss and encourage the acceleration of construction on the widening of Highway 17 from McInnis Elementary School to Spring Garden Ranch Rd. to include the proposed roundabout at that intersection, and the continuation of the River to Sea Loop SUN Trail associated with it, to increase auto safety at that intersection, and non-motorized traffic to be able to travel safely across Highway 17.
- Published the Summer Edition of the DeLeon Dispatch Newsletter.

JULY:

- Attended an FDEP BMAP conference in Tallahassee via Teams to learn more about grants and hear about the progress on Basin Management Action Plans currently in place in 13 of the 30 Outstanding Florida Springs, of which DeLeon Spring is one.
- Volunteers began rearranging the MES Science Lab with shelving and purchased bins to reorganize the many lab items, sort supplies and make it more user friendly and enjoyable for students and staff.

AUGUST:

- Held a birthday celebration to honor DSCA, Inc.'s 10th year of service to the community of DeLeon Springs.
- Hosted a MES Backpack Drive in partnership with the Christian Church at DeLeon Springs and purchased 90 backpacks and supplies to fill them for delivery to MES prior to the 2021-2022 school year's "Meet Your Teacher" event.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ENRICHED OUR COMMUNITY
BY CONTRIBUTING YOUR TIME, TALENT, MONEY,
ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT!**

Not yet a member?

Please join us and be part of the revitalization of DeLeon Springs.

Visit our website's "Join Us" tab at:

www.deleonspringscommunityassociation.com to learn more

or pick up an application at any meeting