

DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

1. Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance: Amy Munizzi, President called the meeting to order. Pastor Arch Fisher led the prayer. Amy led the Pledge and welcomed everyone, including Dr. Cathy Cortez, McInnis Elementary School's newest Assistant Principal. Dr. Cortez said this is her 33rd year working for VCS, and she spent 28 years at Pierson Elementary. She looks forward to working with us.

2. Volusia County Sheriff's Office information: Amy said she noticed they are now Volusia Sheriff's Office, VSO, not VCSO so we will refer to them that way from now on. Sgt. Barnard was unavailable but he has provided brochures on how we can protect ourselves from phishing scams, and his business cards.

3. Acceptance of August 10th Meeting Minutes: Colleen Kurczi, Secretary. Arch Fisher moved to accept the minutes as written and Jim Simmons seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Reports:

A. Review of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported \$1,111.49 in income, \$2408.58 in expenses. Balance is \$3,088.71 and \$1134.12 is the available spending balance. Discussion ensued regarding clarification of the line items. Roseanne Sampsell moved to accept the report, Janice Russak seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Chuck Lennon Park Walking Trail update: Amy Munizzi spoke with VC Parks and Rec. Director Tim Baylie who plans to walk a proposed layout with Kevin in the next couple of weeks so work can begin on it. On another issue, Tim said they had planted coontie in the new medians of the DeLeon Springs Trail but they were stolen. They will see what they can plant again and continue with the fencing and signage.

C. Chuck Lennon Park, Chuck Lennon Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps was unable to attend, so Amy shared his update that few trails are open due to flooding. They are working on re-routing and armoring to prevent wash out, trimming overgrowth, and hope to reopen more of the trails soon if weather improves.

D. Hwy 17 Corridor Water and Sewer improvements update: Amy Munizzi reported that she had a conference call with VC Utilities Director Mike Ulrich and engineer Erin Reed last week. The engineering is proceeding with about 70% of it done and should be completed by the beginning of November. Hurdles with FDOT, City of DeLand and Volusia County Schools have been overcome. Warton-Smith (construction contractor) has let them know that construction costs have skyrocketed over the last year and the project will cost more than anticipated. VCU staff has a meeting with SJRWMD and the FDEP to discuss additional funding, grants, etc. This will delay the beginning of construction. However, only 13 of the 30 Outstanding Florida Springs have BMAPs in place. DeLeon Springs is fortunate to have received the \$2,500,000 grant we did, and to have VCU in our corner to apply for more grant funds before new BMAPs are in place and available grant funds are taken. The Oaks of DeLeon Springs subdivision planners will probably be pushing to move this project along, since we requested they delay constructing houses until these lines are available, to keep more wells and septic systems from being placed so close to the spring.

E. McInnis Elementary School STEM Lab project: Sharon Pinder reported that the volunteer team will be meeting Friday, September 17th at 11:00 AM to finalize this project. Sharon reported that so many within the group have contributed via time, donations, and funds toward this project. Amy thanked Sharon and Colleen for doing the bulk of the work and overseeing it to make it a success.

F. McInnis Elementary School SAC: Colleen Kurczi reported that the first SAC meeting of the school year was held 9/9/21. During the meeting, the SIP (School Improvement Plan) was discussed with goals to increase math, science, ESE and ELA achievement. MES was one of only 12 schools to have a score increase despite the challenges faced this past school year. Important dates shared are father figure take your children to school day to be held 9/22, and MES's in-person open house on 9/28 at 5:00 pm.

G. Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge Kick off: Amy Munizzi said we have purchased two great looking bikes at a substantial discount from JC's Bikes and Boards, and they even donated two helmets. She delivered them to MES yesterday. The Challenge will have a kickoff for all third graders in the Media Center September 30th. The program begins October 4th and runs through May, 2022. These bikes will be unveiled at the kickoff and stay in the Media Center all school year. We also purchased seven \$10 Walmart gift cards, one to be awarded to the most improved student for that month. Amy further reported that we will have awarded 19 bicycles over the course of this program.

H. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons® Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley was out of town but so far in 2021, Andrea has collected and shipped 7 lb. 13.3 oz. of coupons.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: So far this year, Andrea has shipped 15 lbs. 10 oz. of used phones. DeLand Knights of Columbus is also contributing used phones.

Malloy Head Start Food Pantry: Tammy Schuler thanked everyone for their donations and she will take them to MHS tomorrow. Robin Knight asked what the most needed items were and Tammy said every non-perishable food is appreciated. Tammy said we will partner with CCDS to put together Thanksgiving Baskets again this year. Tammy encouraged everyone to bring non-perishables and canned goods to our next meeting, and of course monetary donations will be accepted.

I. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported that 1) they are working on signage along the corridor showing its designation as a National Scenic Byway. 2)The "DeBary Gap" of the Spring to Spring Trail will be completed by December. 3)Blue Spring State Park is doing erosion and day use restoration through October and the swimming area is closed. 4)The Enterprise Museum is having a historic display of the entities along the corridor in January, 2022 and weekly speakers. Amy will contribute historic information and photos of DeLeon Springs for it, and Jay Stone of DSSP will be one of the speakers. Amy stated we have a \$100 donation from an anonymous donor, to be given on behalf of the DSCA, Inc. to help support ROL in what they do for the communities along the corridor. She requested a motion for a donation of \$100 to the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor. Tammy made the motion, Robin Knight seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. Tammy will mail a check to them.

J. DSSP Kayak launcher signage: Amy Munizzi stated she spoke with DSSP Manager Ken Torres and he recently contacted their sign shop, and sent information to them for the creation of the sign. This will help people know what the launcher is, and who donated it.

K. FDOT Highway 17 "Segment 1" Project: Amy Munizzi reminded us that in June she met with FDOT staff, Volusia County engineering staff and District 1 Councilman Barb Girtman to discuss breaking up the Hwy 17 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 roundabout at Spring Garden Ranch Rd. and the SUNTrail associated with it. FDOT did agree 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. This is now known as "Segment 1". Amy recently contacted FDOT Project Manager Todd Helton to ask if anything had come of the meeting, and he replied that FDOT is moving forward with design of "Segment 1". They are still working to identify potential construction funding for the project through coordination with VC, the TPO and/or through potential stimulus funding. Amy said this is great news for us, although the funding issue could take quite a while. But because we as a community have made our concerns known, that has pushed this portion of the widening project to the forefront.

5. Other business, reminders or announcements:

A. McInnis Elementary School "Pocket Readers" Early Literacy Program: Sonia Larrabee reported that data has shown students entering third grade are not reading on level. Sonia met with the Kindergarten and first grade teachers to put books into a pocket pouch for the students to take home and practice their reading and fluency (read at the same speed as speech). Students are to receive books in sequential order and progress to more challenging books. The goal is to get all students on level for second grade. Sonia is requesting volunteers to come into the classroom and read the pocket readers each morning at 7:30 but hours

can be flexible if necessary. Doug and Robin Knight are volunteering on Wednesdays. Sonia provided her contact information for interested volunteers. Colleen said she will put together an email with information on the program along with Sonia's contact information and instructions on how to apply to be an approved volunteer through Volusia County Schools.

B. Fall DeLeon Dispatch: Amy highlighted some information within the latest Fall Edition and asked everyone to distribute accordingly throughout our community. She reminded everyone that it's also on our website as an e-edition.

6. Public Comments: Elizabeth Lendian reported that the DAR will be ringing bells in conjunction with a national event supporting the US Constitution on Friday. They have put together bags for students at Pierson Elementary, McInnis Elementary and Starke Elementary with copies of the US Constitution in them.

Tammy said she has some DSCA, Inc. t-shirts for sale at \$15 each – please contact her if you are interested in purchasing one.

7. Adjournment. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 12th, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Kurczi,
Secretary