

**DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc.**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

1. Amy Munizzi, President called the meeting to order, led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction were made by all, including first time visitors Chris and Debi Edge. McInnis Elementary School Principal Paul Struska shared a bit of his background prior to coming to MES, his vision for the school, and some of the changes that have been put in place, including safety improvements to the car line, etc. Melissa Borghorst reported that a group of volunteers is diligently working to make and donate facemasks for all Volusia County schools in the area. They are also providing books about Covid-19 written by Julienne Kaidor, teacher at St. Barnabas Episcopal. Melissa stated to date she herself has made 3,320 masks.

2. No official August Minutes for approval; dinner meeting highlights were reported by Colleen Kurczi, Secretary, and notes are on the website, though no votes were taken, etc.

3. Review and Acceptance of Treasurer's Report: Tammy Schuler, Treasurer reported that the Board made a unanimous decision to transfer building funds in the amount of \$14,000 into a CD at Mainstreet Bank. Our current income received is \$648.75, expenses are \$739.79, leaving a spending balance of \$768.97. Jennie Mero moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jim Simmons seconded and the motion passed.

4. Reports:

A. McInnis Elementary School Backpack Drive update: Colleen Kurczi reported we were able to purchase 80 backpacks and some of the supplies for them. CCDS contributed the majority of supplies; Family Health Source donated hand sanitizers and Volusia County Emergency Management donated hygiene packets which Volusia County Councilman Barb Girtman delivered to Amy. Backpacks were filled with school supplies at CCDS and Colleen and Amy were able to drop them off to very grateful MES staff.

B. McInnis Elementary School SAC and PTA: Colleen Kurczi reported both groups are meeting virtually. The first SAC meeting was a great introduction to new Principal Paul Struska and Assistant Principal Jocelyn Baker. Old business was reviewed from the March meeting regarding coontie fern in the median in front of the school which posed a sightline problem for drivers turning left out of the school. Consensus was to remove or trim them and trimming was done by Cutting Edge in April. Mr. Struska reported MES will hold virtual and drive-through events to keep parents and the community engaged, now that volunteers and parents are prohibited from the school campus due to safety protocols. Mr. Struska reported that the school held a very successful drive-through "Meet the Teacher" event for students, and it was well attended. MES has 270 students physically enrolled and additional students are attending through virtual alternatives.

C. River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board: Amy Munizzi reported the new River To Sea Loop panel for DeBary SunRail Station are nearly complete and include our section of the Loop. WVTAA Director Georgia Turner gave a presentation on a new marketing campaign launched by Gov. DeSantis encouraging intra-state tourism; Floridians visiting our own, safe, natural, Florida attractions. The campaign is designed to get people back to work since tourism is down substantially and jobs are suffering. Communities like DeLeon Springs will benefit from this program since we have so many healthy outdoor activities for people to enjoy.

D. Water and Wastewater improvements update: Amy reported that the project's design contract will probably be awarded to Jones Edmunds and the pre-construction services contract to Wharton-Smith. This is good news for our community since both firms have extensive utilities experience, have worked together on much bigger projects all over Florida, and won't have to waste time "reinventing the wheel" so to speak.

E. Chuck Lennon Park and CLP Mountain Biking Trails: Kevin Phelps reported there had been wash outs on the sides of the speed hump, but matting and road shell has been placed on either side to minimize erosion. Three of the seven bike trails are open, but rain has rotted planking, and erosion has damaged several trails, so a lot of work will be needed to repair them. Kevin is meeting a new volunteer out there this week, from JC's Bikes and Boards, who will be adopting one of the trails to maintain.

F. Chuck Lennon Park Hiking Trail Changes: Kevin Phelps reported that he does not have any additional updates, since it was last reported that VC Parks and Rec hired an environmental specialist to propose a new route. Amy reported that the new trail may require a boardwalk if it does have to go through wetlands, which would be a nice amenity, similar to the Gemini Springs Trail to Lake Monroe Park.

G. DeLeon Springs Trail/Spring to Spring Trail/River to Sea Loop update: Amy reported that she spoke with Travis Terpstra, Senior Project Manager, VC Engineering & Construction. He stated the "DeLeon Spring connector" (the wide concrete trail along Ponce DeLeon Blvd.) has been completed and is ready for use. Construction of the main DeLeon Spring Trail (section of the River to Sea Loop) is underway and should be complete in early Spring 2021. Amy stated she hopes we can plan an event around the completion of this trail and incorporate use of the new Spring Garden Park property, now available to us.

H. Benevolence:

Troop-Ons© Coupons for Soldiers: Andrea Smiley is out of town but reported via text that there is still no collection of coupons at this time.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Andrea reported via text that there is still no collection, however, please continue to save them, as we will receive and ship them once the program gears back up.

MES Food Pantry: Amy thanked everyone who brought groceries tonight for our families in need, and Colleen said she would deliver them to MES Family Liaison Sara Montalvo next week.

I. Eighth Annual Ride Into Reading Third Grade Challenge Kick-Off: Amy Munizzi gave some background on this program the DSCA, Inc. created for MES, and reported two bikes were purchased at JC's Bike Shop, who not only donated two \$60 helmets but gave us a generous discount on the bikes. Since bike materials and manufacturing is in short supply, prices have gone up, but we were able to shift funds from the Wildcat 5-K line item to this program, and a donor contributed additional funds to complete the purchase. Since we are limited in our access to MES, Amy will deliver the bikes and helmets to the school during off-hours, and Media Specialist Lisa Bertolami will video the kick off, including the bikes, so they can be seen in the video by all third grade students, attending virtually or physically. Amy stated we would like to thank Ron and Dianne Hermanski for helping to facilitate this program over the past years, and we thank all the members who have faithfully and generously contributed funds so we can purchase quality bikes for the winners.

5. Other business, reminders and announcements:

A. DSCA, Inc. meeting location update: Amy reported that Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge finally completed the educational facility but they are not allowing it to be used by the public due to health concerns. Amy inquired as to how to renew our permit, since we have not been able to use it in 2020, and they replied that they are in the process of rewriting their usage rules for the building and will let us know.

B. YMCA Camp Winona Blood Drive Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2-7 pm. 898 Camp Winona Rd. Camp Director Alex McKinney reported that kids are welcome to join parent donors and see all that the camp offers. Alex also reported that fall events are planned and she had flyers available with information, which can also be found on the YMCA Camp Winona website. Alex reported that 500 kids attended summer camp, CDC protocols were adhered to, cabins had eight camper limits, and it was a great success. At the end of the summer, there were no reported cases of Covid-19 from any camp sessions.

C. No International Walk to School Day event this October: Colleen reported that these types of events have been cancelled by Volusia County Schools and they will not participate this year so we will not host it. Paul Struska reported that walkers have been re-routed to exit the back of the school via Baxter St. due to safety protocols and to ensure no one is crossing the car lanes in the pick-up area. Attendees thanked Mr. Struska and agreed that this is an excellent overall improvement to safety measures for students who walk to school. As such when the International Walk to School Day resumes, a new route will be planned.

D. Taylor Middle-High Wildcat 5K Fun Run/Walk: Tammy reported that this event, usually held in November, is being postponed until Spring, so we will reload that line item after the beginning of the year. Amy stated we owe a big thank you to Coach Josh Ebert who developed the program years ago and has made it the great success it is. He has turned it over to Director of Athletics Mark Lebeda and the Taylor Athletic Department will let us know once they choose a new date.

6. Public Comments:

A. Jim Simmons reported that there is a house on Davis St. that he is concerned is a commercial business being run from a residential property, with many junk vehicles, etc. and he requested that the DSCA, Inc. report it to Code Enforcement. Amy asked if he could get the specific address and e-mail it to us. Jim said he will do so.

B. Visitor (and subsequent new members) Chris and Debi Edge reported speeding issues in the Arthur St./Audubon Ave. areas in Burwyn Park, which is especially bad in early mornings, Friday afternoons and Saturday nights. Amy stated that we have had an excellent relationship with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office and they have been very responsive to our contacting them over these types of things. She stated that VCSO has told us several times to call, call, call. It's a big County and continual reporting on specific areas is recorded. She stated she will contact the VCSO and make a request for increased presence in the area.

The meeting was adjourned. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., The Christian Church At DeLeon Springs, 4481 Mills Rd.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colleen Kurczi,  
Secretary