

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

May 9, 2018, Beef O'Brady's, Seffner

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm: Virginia, Andy and Tina attending.

1. Minutes: The April minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs (sent via email)

- SunTrust on-line cash manager has been changed to allow Niki to view account balances and statements on-line.
- A SunTrust debit card was requested and received this month. We should decide on procedures for using it.
- FNPS has a new program called Viewpost which will allow direct deposit of "chapter support payments". Niki will get this set up in the next few weeks.
- Niki sent a Spring Plant Sale final report on 4/29/18. It showed gross sales of \$7045.85, memberships of \$385.00 and a net profit of \$2,255.08. This is slightly less than last year's spring net.

3. Grants and Expenditures

- The board voted via email to buy a card and gift certificate to thank Gar Reed for his years of service as SNPS treasurer and plant sale coordinator.
- A motion was made and approved 3-0 to reimburse Joel Jackson's entire receipted expenditures on the plant id sign project. The project had expanded to include 4 county parks and there were unexpected shipping and printing expenses. Niki will total the receipts and pay Joel.
- A motion was made and carried by 3-0 vote to approve a grant of \$400 to Jared Bethune to pay for native plants in an erosion control project on the Hillsborough River at Morris Bridge county park. The county has already given him \$400 which he used to buy coontie and other plants. Niki can contact about payment.
- It was noticed that there were no grants this year to FANN or to the state conference. No one remembers getting requests on these items. Virginia can check at the state conference.

4. PR Report: Andy Taylor

- The board discussed the use and value of the MeetUp page and whether the cost was justified. We should monitor its use this year to see how many signups we get through this medium. We should also use the Facebook page more frequently to advertise meetings and field trips.
- Andy would like to share an event from the Heartland chapter at the meeting.
- Andy will set up a Facebook event for the open house at Troy's in June.

5. Gardens and Outreach: Tina

- The next walk at Lettuce Lake is May 26. Tina will continue to coordinate with Joel Jackson.
- Karen Elizabeth asked that we buy edging for the native plant area of the HCC community garden. We should ask Janet what she wants to do and when.
- HCC Community Garden has a United Way Volunteer Day scheduled for May 29. This is a Tuesday. We should wait for Karen Elizabeth to send out an official notice. She is looking for several SNPS members to serve as team leaders and organize placing the edging and laying gravel in the native plant area. Availability will depend on the date. We have still not heard from Karen Elizabeth about this.
- The University of Tampa Roots & Shoots sent volunteers to Lettuce Lake on April 21. They pulled invasive plants and took canoes out for a river clean up. Our middle school student volunteer and his mother placed edging along the garden path and installed the new signs with Joel and Tina.

- Rosebud Continuum in Land O'Lakes is having an open house on May 12 and is asking for our participation. Tina is going and will bring some of our free native plant literature to distribute. We are not sure if Nature Coast will be there.
- Niki was not present to discuss the professional development course.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Virginia

- May 9 – open mic night - Tina solicited pictures from garden volunteers
- June 20- Rachel Arndt – Tampa Bay Watch, no talk summary yet; Virginia will not be at this meeting
- July 18 – joint meeting with Sierra and Audubon will be at the Extension Center
- **The board voted to cancel the August meeting.** This should go in the newsletter for June.
- September 19- George Heinrich- Gopher Tortoises
- October 17-Ginny Stibolt- new book 'A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard'; Will she need accommodation?
- November 7 or 14- (changed due to Thanksgiving, verify date with JoAnn)-possibly Craig Huegel (Hee-gull); annual membership meeting and election of officers
- Dec 1- holiday party with other area chapters at Brooker Creek Preserve; Virginia is attending an organizational meeting on the 12th of May
- It is difficult to get speakers from outside the area unless we are willing to find them a place to stay and pay travel.

7. Field Trips/Campouts:

- May 26- SNPS guided native plant walk at Lettuce Lake
- June 9 – Open House at Troy Springer's, 9 am.
- Sep 22 - Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area, Huckleberry entrance, to look for Dicerandra modesta and pine lily. This is east of Davenport in Polk County. (Or other Polk county site ?)
- Oct 27-29 - Silver Springs State Park. Tina has reserved two cabins for Saturday and Sunday nights. Tent and rv sites are available from the park. The cost of the cabins is \$62.73 per person for 4 people in the cabin and \$42 per person for 6 people.
- Nov 17- Blackwater Creek Preserve
- The Holiday Party is set for December 1 at Brooker Creek in Pinellas County. Virginia is coordinating with their president. There will be workshops and walks during the day.

8. Plant Sale :

- Saturday morning was very busy and we really needed more volunteers. The fall sale is the same weekend as the Birding Festival. We need to get volunteer commitments early.
- It would be more efficient to set up a second table for cash only sales.
- Troy says he will not do the plant sale after the one in October. We will need to consider other options.

9. Board of Directors and Officers

- We need to appoint a nominating committee next month.
- The Board of Directors needs new members.

Action Items:

Virginia :

- Book speakers and obtain bios and talk summaries from them. Send bios to Janet for newsletter and Tina for MeetUp and website.
- Attend Council of Chapters meetings.
- Communicate with Pasco and Pinellas chapters about December 1 event.

Niki:

- Set up Viewpost.
- Pay grant monies to Joel Jackson and Jared Bethune.
- Investigate interest in and possibility of offering a plant id continuing education course.

Tina:

- Make contacts and communications with those listed in minutes.
- Maintain MeetUp and website.
- Post minutes and write items for the newsletter.

Andy:

- Publicize chapter events and activities. Post events on our Facebook page, including meetings and field trips.
- Set up a Facebook event for the Troy Springer, June 9, open house.

The next board meeting is **June 27, 5 pm**, at Beef O'Brady's on MLK in Seffner. (Note week change)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Tina Patterson, secretary