

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

February 10, 2025 – 7 pm, on Zoom

The meeting began at 7 pm: Virginia, Tina, Mike, Niki, Merrilee, and Theresa attending. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Board Meetings will normally be held on the *second Monday of each month*.

1. Minutes: Tina Patterson

- The January minutes were posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Marino and Theresa Blanchard

- The Treasurer's report was sent to all board members via email. Niki gave a final report.
- Certifications and renewals are mostly complete.
- Theresa is finishing the FDACS report and will ask for help as needed.
- The board will wait for further clarification on the survey sent out by FNPS. We are told that we cannot receive membership money until it is completed. Niki says that FNPS already has the information needed for direct deposit to our account. Merrilee will check with Cherice about survey requirements.
- Niki, Theresa and Virginia visited the bank to complete paperwork for handing over account responsibility. A new debit card will be issued to Theresa, after which, Niki will cancel her card.

3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki, Theresa and Virginia

- Life Storage is now Extra Space Storage. The price has increased to \$140/month.
- Tina took the organizer position for the MeetUp account and paid a 1-year fee of \$299.99 using the Suncoast card.
- Our registration for the Spring Plant Festival will carry over from October. Niki will forward the email to Theresa who will ask for future correspondence go to her.
- Theresa wants to register with GetChange Corp. to receive donations from Bonfire. She will check with FNPS and Bonfire first.
- Niki would like us to purchase a microscope and powerpack to use for demonstrations and activities. A motion was made and passed 6-0 to authorize Niki to spend up to \$500 on the purchase.

4. PR Report:

- February 15: "Welcome Back Songbirds" at USF Botanical Gardens. Tina, Merrilee, Susan Early, and Mike will attend. Hours are 9am-3pm.
- March 1: Hiking Spree Celebration at Wortham Park, Hillsborough CELM. Merrilee and Linda will table. Hours are 9am-2pm.
- March 8: Spring Festival at Vista Gardens, Carrollwood. Niki and Tina (and maybe Virginia) will table. Hours are 9am-12pm. Tina will bring the laptop to Niki.
- Suncoast needs a new social media and communications person.
- Merrilee is preparing a brochure order form and requests input on what and how many we need.

5. Gardens and Outreach:

- Donated books will be given away at meetings and at the Plant Sale. Unclaimed books will be donated to the library.
- Garden workdays will continue to be on the fourth Tuesday (Lettuce Lake) and third Wednesday (Bell Creek),
- Mary Miller would like to add a workday at Flatwoods on the *second Thursday* of each month. She has requested all participants rsvp to her.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Everyone

- **January:** meeting canceled. Tina suggested using Shirley Denton's "Trees for Hillsborough County" PowerPoint.
- **February:** Theresa on "Propagation", at her house. Tina will collect rsvp's.
- **March and April:** not determined. Virginia will check with **Susan Heyer** about March and **Niki** will ask Francisco Faria to speak this spring.
- **June:** Niki has arranged for Megan Moore of Pasco UF/IFAS to speak. She has 2 topics we can choose from on sea grass and shorelines.
- Janet Bowers has invited us to return to her yard for a visit, maybe for a meeting.

7. Field Trips: Tina and Merrilee

- **February 22:** Blackwater Creek red trail
- **March-April:** not determined
- **May 17, (8am start):** USF Forest Preserve with Neal Halstead; Neal is getting permissions from ECore.

8. Spring Plant Sale: April 12 and 13, 2025

- The registration from fall will be applied to the April sale. The tables are the same.
- Virginia will check with Troy on a driver for the April 10 delivery, and with Steve Farnsworth about trees.
- Virginia will send out last year's plant list for review and suggestions.

9. Newsletter:

- Tina sends out an email twice a month to our members. **Susan** and Tina will look at the Pinellas newsletter.

Action Items: please look for highlighted entries in the minutes.

Virginia: plant sale and Zoom **Niki:** microscope purchase and help Theresa **Theresa:** complete FDACS form for submission and take over treasurer reports **Tina:** additional volunteers for events **Susan:** select a date for a meeting and presentation at Southshore, planning for an email newsletter **Merrilee:** brochure form and survey deadline

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, March 10, at 7 pm on Zoom.

Tina (Mable C) Patterson, Secretary, Suncoast Chapter of FNPS