

## Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

January 13, 2025 – 7 pm, on GoogleMeet

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

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

### 1. Minutes: Tina Patterson

- The December minutes were posted to the website.

### 2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Marino

- The Treasurer's report was sent to all board members via email.
- Theresa Blanchard has volunteered to serve as treasurer next year. Theresa, Virginia, and Niki will coordinate to arrange turnover of the records and bank account.
- The final budget for 2025 was not voted on.

### 3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki and Virginia

- Life Storage is now Extra Space Storage. The price has increased to \$140/month. Theresa offered to look for storage locations in the USF area.
- The board voted to approve a \$500 FNPS conference sponsorship.
- The board voted to reimburse Anita Crnjac \$225 for a student registration to the FNPS conference. Email vote.
- The board approved a \$100 Honorarium to Roger Hammer for leading a wildflower walk at ENP. Email vote.
- The board voted not to buy FNPS license plate surrounds for resale.
- Niki could not cancel MeetUp. Tina will need to try again. Suncoast will continue to use MeetUp for now.

### 4. PR Report:

- Firefest 2025 is January 25 at Medard Park, 9am-2pm. Tina, Virginia, Linda and Merrilee will attend. We need our own table and chairs. Theresa will provide a table, and Virginia will pick up handouts at the storage shed.
- Hiking Spree celebration at Wortham Park on March 1, 9am-1pm. Merrilee and Linda offered to represent us there. Tina will complete the Exhibitor Form and forward any information.
- USF Botanical Gardens has invited us to participate in a "Welcome Back Songbirds" event, February 15. Tina will communicate with Craig Huegel. Merrilee, Tina and Mike volunteered to work at the festival.
- Vista Gardens has asked us to table at an event there on March 8, 9am-12pm. Niki has volunteered to set up a table. Tina will request volunteers in the February email.
- Suncoast needs a new Facebook, Instagram, and newsletter person.

### 5. Gardens and Outreach:

- Donated books will be given away at the Plant Sale.
- Garden workdays will continue to be on the fourth Tuesday (Lettuce Lake) and third Wednesday (Bell Creek) this year.
- Tina needs a substitute for the Native Plant Walk at Lettuce Lake on April 5. Theresa volunteered.

## 6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Everyone

- **January:** Susan Heyer is not able to speak this month. The meeting will be canceled. Tina will suggest members look at the "Trees for Hillsborough Yards" PowerPoint on our website.
- **February 19:** Theresa on "Propagation", at LRW. Theresa should contact Anita Camacho to plan.
- **March 19, April 16, May 21:** Susan Heyer in March? Linda suggested Michael F. Ries on EcoSphere. Merrilee would like to see an Everglades presentation, maybe Michelle Collier of the ENP Conservation Association.
- **June 18:** Megan Moore, Extension Agent Pasco, Florida Sea Grant Program (Niki coordinating)
- Janet Bowers has invited us to return to her yard for a visit, maybe for a meeting. Possibly March or April.

## 7. Field Trips: Tina and Merrilee

- **February 3-7:** camping at Long Pine Key campground in Everglades National Park
- **February:** will need to be a Sunday or the 22<sup>nd</sup>. No location chosen

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

- The registration from fall will be applied to the April sale.

## 9. Newsletter:

- Discussion on whether to replace the newsletter with a monthly email. Tina and Susan will look at the Pinellas Chapter example.

## 10. Elections, Officers, and Board Meetings: See Next Page

- Merrilee has volunteered for Council of Chapters representative and Theresa for treasurer. Virginia has agreed to one more year as president. Tina has volunteered to continue as secretary. Vice President is still open.
- The Board voted to approve the slate of officers given below.
- The free version of GoogleMeet allows only one hour for meetings. We need to find another platform.

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

**Virginia:** set up board meeting Niki: arranging to hand over financial duties **Tina:** MeetUp transfer, volunteers for outreach events **Susan:** select a date for a meeting and presentation at Southshore, planning for an email newsletter, **Theresa:** check on storage shed rates near USF, February meeting **Merrilee:** February field trip

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

**The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, February 10, 7 pm on Zoom**

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

Addendum to Minutes, January 26, 2025

The following board of directors were elected by the Suncoast members present at the December 14, 2024 Chapter Meeting:

Virginia Overstreet

Niki (Nicole) Marino

Mable C (Tina) Patterson

Mike Fite

Linda Steele-Green

Susan Heyer

Merrilee Wallbrunn

Theresa Blanchard

The following positions were decided by the Board, voting by email on 1/26/25.

Virginia Overstreet- President

Theresa Blanchard- Treasurer

Tina Patterson – Secretary

Open – Vice President

Merrilee Wallbrunn- Council of Chapters Representative

Tina (Mable C) Patterson

Secretary, Suncoast Chapter of FNPS