

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

May 8, 2023 – 7 pm, on Zoom

The meeting began at 7 pm: Virginia, Tina, Niki, Mike, Linda, Susan, Anita, Kat, Shirley, and Jordan Parker 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 April minutes were posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs

- The treasurer's report was sent to all members via email.
- An honorarium of \$100 was given to Craig Huegel for speaking at the April meeting.
- April donations from the plant sale and membership meeting totaled \$144.
- Other items are included in the Plant Sale Report.

3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki Cribbs

- Susan Heyer's submission of a grant to buy native plants, mulch and signage for the King's Point HOA common area was sent to all board members via email. The grant for \$500 was approved via email by a 6-1 vote. Niki will coordinate with Susan on payment.
- Riverhills Nature Trails has requested \$500 to add native plants along their trails. Virginia and Mike will visit the site before further discussion. Mike suggested an interpretive sign for the entrance.

4. **PR Report:** Jordan Parker spoke to the Board about increasing participation with younger people. The following topics were discussed:

- *Become a Bright Futures partner.* High school students earn community service hours by working on projects like clearing invasives. Suncoast would need to contact someone in the school system. There are questions about insurance coverage for participants which we need to ask FNPS (Lynda Davis) about.
- *Increase use and scope of social media.* Kat has already added Instagram but needs more photos to post. Please send content to her so she can share on Facebook and Instagram. Susan suggested videos describing plants at neighborhood parks around Tampa. Jordan suggested filming short videos on our field trips and producing some lecture-based videos about native plants and native gardening. Shirley said we can share items to our Google workspace.
- *Provide hands-on conservation activities.* Tina will contact Nicolle Grant at ECORE to see if the USF Environmental Science Group would like to join in conservation activities with Suncoast.

5. Gardens and Outreach: Tina Patterson

- Wonders of Wildlife Festival at Medard Park in November. There is a \$35 registration fee, and we must provide our own tables and chairs. Linda has volunteered to work and will forward the registration information to the Board.
- Announcement of VIVA grant awards from the Florida Wildflower Foundation will happen May 15. If Tia Silvasy's submission for the Lettuce Lake Garden is approved, we will need lots of volunteers for planting. Expected time is early June. Tina is coordinating volunteers.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Everyone

- **May 17 – Zoom** – Member- share.
- **June 21- Susan Early, “Weeds”, Little Red Wagon** event space, **7 pm**. Light refreshments and plant auction. **Anita** will provide a water cooler. **Tina** will get topic summary and bio.
- **Joint Meeting: July 12 at the Tampa Garden Club**. There will be a \$100 cleaning fee. Ann Paul has offered the Audubon projector for the evening. We can get a microphone from the Garden Club. William Freund of the fStop Foundation will speak. The board voted to give him, or his foundation, a \$500 honorarium.
- **Mike** suggests we ask attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to the July meeting for donation to a food bank.
- **September – Niki** will contact Michael Jenkins about a noon Zoom meeting on or near September 20. **Virginia** can set up the meeting or we can look for an alternative Zoom channel like FNPS.
- **October** – should be in-person. Location? Speaker?
- We will continue to solicit speaker suggestions. Eugene Kelly, Sue Mullins, Brent Setchell, Shirley Denton, Karina Veaudry, Barbara Heineken, Louis Marks (Carnivore Connection) and James Freeman (Cactus Island Nursery).
- Niki sent an email about daytime, Zoom, conservation -focused meetings as a possible alternative to an evening meeting schedule. She suggested Michael Jenkins on Plant Conservation and Lara Milligan on living shorelines as possible speakers.

7. Field Trips: Steve Dickman/Tina Patterson/Shirley Denton

- **May 20** – Double Branch Preserve, Steve leading
- June and July are still open. Tina suggested a visit to USF Botanical Gardens for July (weekday, maybe) since Karla Alvarado is no longer with the Herbarium.

8. Plant Sale – April 15 and 16 and October 14 and 15 (?), 2023

- The Spring Sale was our best year in total revenue, but profit was down slightly because USF gets 20% now.
- It was suggested that we should increase prices, continue to order mostly 1-gallon (more milkweed) and provide information on the projects we support to emphasize that we are a non-profit.

9. Newsletter: Shirley Denton

- Submissions for the **June** newsletter should be sent by **May 25**. Volunteers for, and information about, the joint meeting

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

Virginia: site visit and Zoom **Niki:** grant money and September speaker **Tina:** volunteers, June speaker **Anita:** June meeting space **Mike:** organize food donations, site visit **Linda:** registration information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, June 12, at 7 pm on Zoom.

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