Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2026 (via Google Meet)

In Attendance: Board Members Michelle Anaya, Anita Crnjac, Neal Halstead, Katelyn Belser, Mary James, Sue Cotty, Mary Lou Dahmer, Mike Fite, Carlos Frey, Tina Patterson, Linda Steele-Green
Absent: None
Quorum Present?: Yes

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

1. Board Positions

- The following Board member positions were approved unanimously (11-0), pursuant to Article 6.0 of the Bylaws.

    - Michelle Anaya - Co President
    - Anita Crnjac - Co President
    - Neal Halstead – Vice President
    - Katelyn Belser – Treasurer
    - Mary James - Secretary
    - Sue Cotty - Director at large
    - Mary Dahmer - Director at large
    - Mike Fite - Director at large
    - Carlos Frey - Director at large
    - Tina Patterson - Director at large
    - Linda Steele-Green – Director at large

2. Chapter Updates

- 3 new members since August meeting
- 283 new Facebook followers, 114,700 views, 2,400 content interactions

3. August Meeting Minutes

- Tina posted August 2026 minutes to the website. She will provide Mary J. with instructions on how to do this going forth.

4. Events

- Sacred Lands wants us to come to a speaking event at their site - Sacred Lands Preservation and Education – Preserving the Past and Enriching the Future. Location is in St. Petersburg, but no date set yet.

- Linda, Tina, and Anita will attend the Fire Festival - January 24, 2027 at Medard Park.

- Caterpillar Movie – May be able to have 2 showings. Suggested locations: Sun-Ray Cinema near USF (Neal); Children's Museum or MOSI (Sue), Tampa Theatre (Carlos), Plant City Theatre (Linda)

- Dr. Mark Hostetler (UF Dept. of Wildlife, Ecology, and Conservation) has offered to speak at one of our Chapter meetings via Zoom. His work focuses on urban biodiversity, wildlife-friendly development, native and ecological landscaping, bird habitat, and helping homeowners, developers, and local governments make developed areas function better for wildlife. Board agreed unanimously to proceed.
- Linda mentioned someone with Jacksonville Botanical Garden who recently spoke at a Garden Club meeting. She may also be willing to speak at one of our meetings.
- We were invited to 11th Annual Hillsborough County Hiking Spree Kickoff in Odessa on November 7th. 500 people expected to attend. Sue is willing to table at the event, and Carlos offered to provide tent. This dates conflict with our Chapter Meeting. Will discuss coverage further at next meeting.
- Do we want to host Plant Bingo? Michelle went to one and 29 people attended, total of $1885 raised. Katelyn also attended one and enjoyed it. (Address this next month)
- Florida Trail Association asked us to lead a hike in Green Swamp for their DIDAHIKE 2026 event, taking place December 11 (Address again next month)

5. Treasurer's Report

- Katelyn met with Theresa (previous Treasurer) recently to transfer financial info.
- Katelyn provided a summary of Suncoast's four account balances as of 8/31/26, and Chapter expenses and revenue for the month of August.

6. Chapter Changes

- Discussed looking for cheaper storage unit. Per Tina, a location near USF probably best since most of contents are related to Plant Sale. (Michelle to get pricing to change location)
- New Website ($58 a year) Suncoast Revamp (need to address next month)
- Using a central email (Michelle will ask FNPS for guidance)
- Bylaws Update – Carlos, Tina, Mary J., and Anita volunteered to be on the Bylaws Committee. Michelle will provide everyone with a copy of the current Bylaws, the revisions she recommends, and FNPS-State Bylaws
- BOD Meeting Date change – Going forward, Board meetings will normally be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

7. Miscellaneous

- Discussed need to obtain admin privileges for our Instagram page. ~200 followers, but no recent posts. Katelyn thinks there may be a process to transfer from prior volunteer. If not, Michelle may need to create a new page.
- PO Box – Tina has key and has been checking it. Recommended keeping this close to Katelyn since most mail is Treasurer-related.
- Michelle will send out newsletter announcing new Board
- Board Meeting frequency – Majority of Board prefers to continue with monthly meetings, but voted unanimously to take August off going forth. Will revisit taking December off.

8. Last Night's Chapter Meeting Recap

- Michelle discussed that audience questions need to be saved until the end of the meeting. In the future, if the discussion gets off the speaker's topic, she will intervene. Neal

suggested a written Code of Conduct for future reference. Michelle will provide the FNPS-State new Code of Conduct for everyone to review.

9. Other Questions/Comments

- Mary J. asked about updates to current Annual Report on Sunbiz. Per Michelle, this will be amended at a later date with new officers/addresses.
- Tina advised Mary J. to send list of new officers to Cherise with FNPS-State. Tina will provide her email address.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The date of the next Board of Directors meeting is October 8.

Minutes submitted by Mary James, Secretary, Suncoast Chapter of FNPS on 9/20/26.