

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

December 11, 2018, Virginia's house

The meeting began at 6:00 pm. Virginia, Shirley, Mike, Tina and Niki attended.

1. Minutes: The November minutes were posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs

- Niki went over items from her report of last month. She will prepare a new budget for 2019 to present in January.
- Niki deposited a royalty check from George Kish. Shirley explained the history of the payment.

3. Grants and Expenditures

- SNPS usually gives a \$500 grant to the USF Herbarium in November or December. Alan Franck is no longer director. The new director is Arian Farid. Niki will contact him to set up a meeting and deliver our grant at the same time.
- The \$400 grant for Morris Bridge is still on hold until we hear from Jared. Should we carry over to 2019?
- Tina and Virginia proposed giving \$250 to FNPS for the *Warea* land acquisition project. Niki agreed and has made the donation from Suncoast.

4. PR Report: There was discussion on how to increase publicity for meetings and field trips.

- Shirley suggested more interaction with new MeetUp members. Tina will contact any new members who join.
- Niki suggested advertising in local papers such as Plant City Observer or Creative Loafing. Tina will make contact with the Observer and look for other publications.
- We should try to share some speaker and field trip information with Sierra and Audubon.
- Virginia can share more meeting information to other chapters via Facebook. Tina will forward Shirley's email on the subject of sharing to the state Facebook page.
- Tina brought up the issue of incorrect email addresses and non-renewing members. We should contact these people by postcard.

5. Gardens and Outreach: Tina Patterson

- Tina has sent a schedule for 2019 to Chris Kiddy and Joel Jackson. We are moving the walks to the first Saturday of each month to avoid conflicts with field trips. Tina will get this on our webpage, MeetUp and the FNPS calendar. Joel sent the schedule to Tampa Bay Times and Chris Kiddy will publish in the Trailblazer.
- No one has come forward to take over responsibility for the HCC Plant City garden. Virginia talked to someone from Lowe's who was interested in a project, but no further arrangements were made.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Virginia Overstreet

- January 16 – Janet Bowers, "Converting an underused pool area to a native plant garden" will be at the Seffner Extension Center
- February 20 – Chris Hanni, "Dispersion and Impacts of Texas Phoenix Palm decline on *Sabal palmetto* at Golden Aster Preserve".
- Virginia will check availability of Seminole Heights Library for next year, including for the February meeting. She will check with Chris to see which location he prefers. She will also see if refreshments or plant sales are allowed there.

- Shirley suggested looking for a meeting place near USF. Niki mentioned the possibility of becoming a member of the Ybor Chamber of Commerce and using their meeting space.
- Should we cut back on the number of meetings or have fewer speakers?
- Some meetings could be in a workshop format for plant id , gardening tips or photography techniques.

7. Field Trips/Campouts: Tina Patterson/Shirley Denton

- January 15- Alafia Scrub Nature Preserve. This is a weekday field trip.
- February 23- Golden Aster Preserve. In conjunction with the speaker's topic from this month's meeting.
- March 23- Balm Boyette Scrub Preserve (middle section, not the one we visited last time) – Tina to see if a wagon tour could be set up with the county.
- It is noted that all of those are in southeastern Hillsborough County. Some different locations could be Upper Tampa Bay Conservation Park and the section of the Florida Trail on Chancey Rd in Pasco County. Shirley can provide details on these for the calendar (dates and or locations).
- Shirley suggested a late October or early November hike at the SWFMD site near Beeker State Park in Manatee.

8. Plant Sale: Discussion on handling the plant sale without Troy.

- Plant sale totals included in the Treasurer's report. Niki pointed out that the plant sales, especially the spring, make up almost all of our revenue.
- Tina has been able to find volunteers but we really need more, especially on Saturday.
- We need to contact suppliers and arrange to order and pick up and return plants. Vendors used in the past include Steve Farnsworth, David Barnard, Green Isles (Groveland) and Green Seasons (Parrish). We need to find out if they will continue to provide plants on consignment.
- Can we rent a truck to transport? Can we find a vendor who will deliver? Would SweetBay be interested in working with us?

9. Board of Directors and Officers

- Mike Fite and Shirley Denton have agreed to serve on the Board for 2019.
- A Nominating Committee needs to be named to present the slate at the annual meeting.
- The annual meeting should be the January 16, 2019 meeting. Tina to send information to Janet for the newsletter.
- Virginia, Niki and Tina have agreed to serve again in their present positions. Shirley says she will take over the newsletter when Janet leaves. Andy Taylor is no longer an SNPS member and so will no longer serve on the board.
- We should work to find at least two more Board members for 2019.
- At this time: 2019 Board
 - President - vacant
 - Virginia Overstreet – Vice President
 - Niki Cribbs – Treasurer
 - Tina Patterson – Secretary
 - Shirley Denton – newsletter and field trips
 - Mike Fite – at large

Action Items:

Virginia:

- Book speakers and obtain bios and talk summaries from them. Send bios to Janet (Shirley) for newsletter and Tina for MeetUp, website , FNPS calendar and newspaper.
- Attend Council of Chapters meetings. Ask about state conference ads and grant donation for next year.
- Advertise events on our SNPS Facebook page and share to FNPS.
- Check Seminole Heights Library for availability for the February meeting and communicate with Chris Hanney to see if he would rather go to Seffner or Seminole Heights.

Niki

- Investigate interest in and possibility of offering a plant id continuing education course.
- Make the donation for *Warea* land acquisition.
- Write a proposed budget for 2019 for the January Board meeting.
- Has volunteered to help with transportation for the plant sale.
- Contact the new USF Herbarium director.

Tina:

- Get information to the newsletter editor and email reminders to members.
- Maintain MeetUp and website. List events in the FNPS calendar. Contact Tampa Bay Times and Plant City Observer.
- Coordinate field trip sign-ups. Contact Chris Kiddy about March field trip.

We Should:

- Contact former members and those whose emails are out-of-date or incorrect.
- Share information with Audubon and Sierra clubs.
- Continue to look for new meeting locations and consider changes to chapter activities.
- Plan for the plant sale by contacting suppliers and arranging transportation.
- Appoint a Nominating Committee.
- Find at least two more members for the Board of Directors.

The next board meeting will be at Bob Evans, Seffner, at I-4 and CR 579 (11720 Gateway Blvd) at 5:00 pm on January 16, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Tina Patterson, secretary