

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes

January 16, 2019, Bob Evans, Seffner

The meeting began at 5:00 pm. Virginia, Shirley, Mike, Tina, Niki and Barbara Fite. The minutes include some email discussions where noted.

1. **Minutes:** The December minutes were posted to the website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Niki Cribbs

- Niki presented a budget for 2019. She based amounts on our actual expenditures and revenues from 2018.
- It was noted that we only received one membership payment from FNPS when normally we receive two. The revenues from memberships were less than half the budgeted amount in 2018. Niki will inquire about that and see if we should have received a second payment.
- Plant sale revenue was also less than budgeted. We may need to raise prices at this year's sale.
- A motion was made and carried to approve the 2019 budget as presented by Niki Cribbs, Treasurer. The 2019 budget is included with the written minutes.

3. Grants and Expenditures: Niki Cribbs

- We carried over the \$500 grant to USF Herbarium from last year. Niki will set up a meeting with director Arian Farid to deliver the grant money.
- The \$400 grant for Morris Bridge is still on hold until we hear from Jared.
- Cuplet Fern Chapter proposed setting up a fund to help chapters who have sustained losses from hurricanes or other natural disasters. They suggested each chapter contribute \$100. The board decided that we would not earmark money for this purpose but do have grant money available for projects.
- The \$250 for *Warea* land acquisition was sent to FNPS from our chapter last month.

4. **PR Report:** There was no new discussion.

5. Gardens and Outreach: Tina Patterson

- Native Plant Walks at Lettuce Lake are now the first Saturday of each month except July, August and December. The next walk is February 2.
- No one has come forward to take over responsibility for the HCC Plant City garden.
- Tina sent out a request for volunteers to represent SNPS at the Hillsborough County event "Fueling Awareness: Prescribed Fire Field Day." Linda Steele-Green expressed interest.

6. Membership Meetings/Speakers: Virginia Overstreet

- February 20 – Chris Hanni, "Dispersion and Impacts of Texas Phoenix Palm decline on *Sabal palmetto* at Golden Aster Preserve". **This meeting will be at Seminole Heights Branch Library on Central Avenue in Tampa.** There will be no refreshments at this meeting. Tina will contact Linda Steel-Green about the change. The plant auction will be held as usual but reworded to make clear that it is a donation, not a sale.
- The March meeting will be in Seffner at the Extension Office and will be a photography workshop with John Lampkin. Members are encouraged to bring their cameras and manuals.
- We will observe attendance at the February meeting before deciding on later months.

- There was email discussion (Jan 20, 2019) on purchasing copies of “The Swamp” and “The Price of Feathers” to show at a future meeting and then donate to our library. **Virginia** will get prices and ordering detail to present to the board.

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

- February 23- Golden Aster Preserve. In conjunction with the speaker’s topic from this month’s meeting. **Steve** might be an unofficial leader for this hike because of his knowledge of the preserve.
- March 23- Balm Boyette Scrub Preserve (middle section, not the one we visited last time) or Fishhawk Preserve – **Tina** to see if a wagon tour could be set up with the county after we have decided which one.
- Possible future locations: 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.
- We would like to increase membership and book sales by setting up a dedicated table for these. Linda Steele-Green has expressed interest in doing the separate table. If Devon is available, she is also very good with books and memberships. **Tina** will get book ordering information from Janet Bowers.
- **Niki** can provide supplier contact information from the invoices. She and Shirley have both offered to help with transportation of plants. **We need** to have commitments from suppliers as early as possible.

9. Board of Directors and Officers

- **Steve Dickman** has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors in 2019. (via email from Mike Fite, Jan 18, 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
 Steve Dickman- at large and field trips
- **We need** to decide how and when to present this to the membership for a vote.
- Virginia will not be able to attend the Council of Chapters Retreat in February. Tina will represent SNPS. **Virginia** will forward the registration information.

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. Send Tina information for the February meeting.
- Advertise events on our SNPS Facebook page and share to FNPS.
- Check Seminole Heights Library for availability for future meetings.

- Get information on buying the videos to show at meetings and to share through our library.

Niki:

- Find out about membership dues sent from FNPS to SNPS last year.
- Contact the USF Herbarium director to set a meeting to deliver the grant.
- Complete registrations and tax documents for 2019.
- Provide plant supplier contact information from invoices.

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. Contact new MeetUp members.
- Get book ordering information from Janet. Place book orders?
- Coordinate field trip sign-ups. Contact Chris Kiddy about March field trip.
- Attend the Council of Chapters Conference and Retreat for Virginia.

Shirley:

- Decide on March field trip location (including parking site) and send information to Tina.
- Arrange changeover of newsletter responsibilities with Janet.
- Work with Steve and Tina to determine field trip locations and leaders for remainder of 2019.

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 and arrange a meeting to elect the new Board of Directors
- Continue looking for Board members and a President.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be February 20 in Seminole Heights. A time and location were not decided. Trip's Diner was suggested as a possibility.

Tina Patterson, secretary