



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 02/08/2020

Jacksonville, Mandarin Garden Club – Annual Retreat

taken by Athena Philips – CoC Secretary

Kara Driscoll called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM

In attendance (29)

* indicates proxy ~indicates online

Citrus – Gail Taylor

Conradina – Martha Stuart

Eugenia – David Martin

Ixia – Cate Hurlbut *

Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos

Magnolia – Jan Blue

Marion Big Scrub – Deborah Curry

Martin – Dianna Wentink

Naples – Kara Driscoll CoC Chair

Passionflower – Susan Knapp

Pawpaw – Sandi Habali

Paynes Prairie – Sandi Saurers

Pinellas – David Perky ~

Sarracenia – Jeanie Brodhead

Sea Oats – Judy Zinn

Sea Rocket – Kate Chiodini ~

Sweetbay – Jody Wood-Putnam ~

Tarflower – Jim Erwin *

Athena Philips CoC Secretary

Wayne Baker (Sea Oats VP)

David Roddenberry (Sarracenia Pres)

John Benton (Lake Beautyberry Pres)

Wendy Poag (FNPS Educ. Comm)

Bonnie Basham (Sarracenia; FNPS Pres-elect)

Gene Kelly (FNPS Policy Comm) ~

Jenny Welch ~

Juliet Rynear (FNPS Exec Assist.)

Susan Carr (Paynes Prairie; FNPS Pres)

Valerie Anderson (FNPS Communications)

➤ **Regular Agenda Items**

- **Forum:** Subscribe to Forum threads to be notified of posts & BOD reports
- **Proxies:** Please find proxies. Chapters required to attend 4 meetings a year.
- **Next Go2Meeting Feb 23rd**

- **Governance:** CoC Chair has a new FNPS email account, for continuity between Chairs
Please direct Council business to: Councilchair@fnps.org

➤ **Old Business**

- **2019 Review:**

Kara- In 2019 we have a new Council "Purpose", going to the Board today for approval. We've worked on Inter-Chapter Disaster Relief. Chapters have started setting aside money to send students or young professionals to the Conference. We've worked on using the Google Drive.

- **Nominating Committee:**

Kara- We vote in April and need at least 1 person on the Nominating Committee. I suggested we widen the pool and loosen the requirement to serve in Council Governance. Just past Reps? Anyone? Have past Reps serve in an advisory role?

Susan K- We're looking for a Nominating Committee?

Kara- We are looking for someone on the Nominating Committee and anyone wanting to serve in Governance.

Susan K- When is the election? Patricia and I did Nominating Committee, we split the chapter list and got no response.

Kara- This time not just the Reps, and working with Susan Carr.

Wendy- I can help with calling people on the Nominating Committee.

Susan K- Me too.

Wendy- I'll need the email list.

Kara- They do not need experience, I am willing to help train them.

Wayne Baker: I am willing to to run for Vice-Chair. (round of applause)

Gail T: Reps need to update their contact info. Cammie sent an email and only received nine responses.

Susan K: Presidents need a protocol for transitions to the next President.

Cate: What has worked for us is having an Ixia President email account.

➤ **New Business**

- **Council Goal Questionnaire:**

Kara- Raise your hand if you filled out the questionnaire.

- **Regional Meetings:**

Kara- The issues that Pensacola has are not going to be the same as Dade, so this is why we are suggesting this.

Unidentified person- We could share local ideas.

Kara- Yes, we should transition from quarterly meetings to regional meetings. These meetings can be difficult to travel to. They are long and tiring, and we are jamming our meeting into one hour. Some say go to two days. Anyone want to? (grumbles)

I suggest to coordinate schedule with staff input. Or should dates be assigned?

Wendy- Invite anyone?

Susan Carr- Start small.

Sandi H- Anyone already do this?

Jeanie- We do

Wayne- We do

Cate- Mark Kateli does

Sandi H- More chapters are posting events on Facebook, and I see those as something I may go do.

Val- We are very supportive. If you don't schedule all at the same time, we could attend and/or put it online.

Wendy- May want a speaker from one of the Committees.

Gail T- So then would I contact Wendy as a speaker, then contact chapters, and

then contact FNPS? In what order?

Juliet- If you are organizing an event, let me know.

Gail T- I didn't think to email you, and I let everyone else know.

Juliet- Sometime in the beginning of the process.

Kara- I'll pretend we have four quarterly regional meetings. We invite all local chapters, what workshops or ideas do you want to discuss? We are leaving certain chapters behind now.

Patricia- Is there an advantage to having a flexible framework?

Kara- How many don't regularly talk to their neighboring chapters? Some chapters are insular, but others are not.

Wendy- Advocacy at meetings can further the Land Management Partners, can talk about what's happening and what's coming up.

Kara- Lots of chapters aren't here. I challenge every Rep to either organize a meeting, talk to their Board, or talk to neighbors.

Wayne- Maybe replace one of the regular meetings with with a regional meeting. Maybe one at the beginning of the year, one at the end of the year. There's lots of potential.

Martha- A lot of chapters do different things. Tarflower does rescues, we don't. We have had speakers with other chapters.

Kara- Naples is recovering and getting new members. Neighboring Cocoloba is doing well. Marlene has been helping us and is very good with landscaping. We have a lot of scientist members. Balance of strengths between us.

Susan Carr- Bottom-up, or top-down? You could grow one up and publish story about it in the Sable Minor.

Kara- Who's going to lead it? A Regional Meeting Sub-Chair?

Patricia- I'd like to volunteer to try a Regional chairmanship and setup a template.

I'll contact other chapters, attempt the first one, see what works or doesn't.
(applause)

Kara- I liked Cuplet Fern's mini-conference. Could take that idea and gear it towards our membership and needs.

Patricia- I think we need basic nuts and bolts. Keep our eye on the ball.

Kara- It should be fun. I get fried from too much information.

Sandi S- What if only 3-5 people attend meeting? And who leads, who takes Minutes, how are results conveyed?

Patricia- That's why I think there needs to be a Regional Chair.

Kara- Do at least one Round Table Discussion, and I would document that. If the Regional Meeting has handouts, include those. Write down the ideas, put them on the website for other Reps to have access to. And why wouldn't we be streaming these? It can serve multiple purposes.

Susan Carr- We could substitute the Aug quarterly meeting?

Jeanie- I think the host should run it. Chapters could do more than one, if they overlap.

Sandi- I think just Chapter Reps.

Deborah- No. It could be more opportunity for membership to grow.

Kara- In California, their Council has 2-3 day Regional Meetings. There's workshops, field trips, a whole day of local interest topics.

David R- So then not just Reps.

Kara- As Gail says: We should get to know our members. Who is doing research, invasive removals, etc.

Sandi H- I've been a member a long time, and we have new members who are overwhelmed. Google drive, website, blog, etc.

Kara- I've been trying to sort things so they are easy to access, and less of a chore to search for. Empowering people! If you have any questions, please ask. I was hoping to set goals for 2020...

Susan K- I have two questions from my chapter. Is there a simple way to input chapter volunteer hours on the website? Less categories?

Juliet- Lumping all Board hours is simpler than individually, and have one individual report on events. I can send a link to bookmark for individual vs chapter hours.

Wendy- I think we need volunteer hours training.

Cate- We have never reported hours, for at least five years. We have a hard enough time getting volunteers, much less reporting the volunteer hours.

Susan Carr- We need a membership person on the ExComm.

Susan K- Question, The bylaws by the chapters and the FNPS bylaws, who supersedes?

Susan Carr- Do we have an Aug Regional Meeting?

Wendy- We have an April 4th meeting! (applause)

➤ Open Floor

- N/A

Judy Zinn made motion to adjourn.

Jeanie Broadhead 2nds.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10pm