



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 03/29/20

Online Go2Meeting

taken by Athena Philips – CoC Secretary

Kara Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

In attendance (20)

* indicates proxy

Citrus – Gail Taylor	Nature Coast – Diane Caruso
Cuplet Fern – Mark Kateli	Passionflower – Susan Knapp
Eugenia – David Martin	Pawpaw – Karen Walter
Heartland – Gregory Thomas	Pawpaw – Sandi Habali
Hernando – Janet Grabowski	Pinellas – David Perky
Ixia – Jessica Spencer	Suncoast – Virginia Overstreet
Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos	Villages – Gary Babic
Longleaf Pine – Gabriel Cambell	Athena Philips CoC Secretary
Martin – Dianna Wentink	Valerie Anderson (FNPS Communications Dir)
Naples – Kara Driscoll CoC Chair	Wendy Poag (FNPS Education Comm Chair)

➤ **Regular Agenda Items**

- **Minutes from previous meeting** Karen Walter motions to to approve, David Perky 2nds the motion. None opposed – Motion carries
- **Forum:** The Agenda was posted to the Forum and Facebook.
- **Proxies:** Please have a proxy, especially now that we may shift to Regional meetings.
- **Next meeting:** The date on the Agenda is wrong. April 26th will be the next Council meeting. You can check the Society Calendar for dates.
- **BOD:** The Board of Director reports are available for everyone to view.

- Council Chair email: I do have a new FNPS email address and refer all Council correspondence go there: Councilchair@fnps.org

➤ Old Business

- **Nominating Committee:**

Kara- Thank you Susan Knapp for your email update. I confirmed with Wayne that he will run for the Vice-Chair. He was at the last meeting and is hyper-motivated on the issues we need to work on. I won't tell you that you need to volunteer now, but we still need a secretary.

For Regional Meetings, I wanted to leave structuring to the chapters, but we do need some type of Minutes taken. Is that going to be put on the Council Secretary to do as well?

Wendy- I discussed with Valerie about this and Valerie is going to record them. Minutes can be transcribed from that. I think we have that tackled.

Kara- Mainly Athena has been taking Minutes and posting them, doing the calendar schedule, and runs the Go2Meeting screen. The rest of the guidelines are posted on the website. Are we still taking nominations?

Athena- The SOP says nominations are technically closed, but I thought we could continue to accept self-nominations until the voting deadline, if everyone approves.

Kara- Is that okay with everyone? [Room consents]
When is the voting?

Athena- Voting is for two weeks, in mid April. April 15-29.

Kara- If you know anyone that can help, please contact us.

➤ New Business

- **Conference Student Sponsorship:**

Kara- Gail Taylor has spearheaded a project to assist students and young professionals interested in going to the Conference. She has compiled a list.

Gail- There were professors and professionals at the last Conference, whom I asked if they could provide some names of interested people. Jack Putz (UF), gave me three names. Jennifer Elliot (UCF), gave me five names. Tom Hoctor (UF), gave me five names from the Landscape Architecture class. Gage Lapierre (UF), gave me eight names. We have names to share, some addresses, but mostly I just have information about them.

Kara- I got feedback from nine chapters, and roughly eight expressed interest in sponsoring, two wanted local students. I think this is a really great start and move into next year with it.

Mark- Gail, when you talked to the professors, did you discuss the costs and did they say they might help, with food costs or something? Is there something on the University side, it's a high bill.

Gail- When we talked before, we discussed it might be between \$300-500, depending on how far they come from. All I asked was if they knew students who'd be interested, if we helped with some costs.

Mark- This seems to be a group effort, but how will it be disbursement happen?

Gail- The details have never been formalized. Some said put funds together, but most didn't like that. My thinking was that I'd share the names with my chapter Board and then contact the person to see if they'd accept this money and attend.

Mark- I like that.

Karen- Pawpaw established a committee. We have contacts with a few schools, and they nominate some students. We sort of have done the same thing, but as a committee.

Gail- That's fine - whatever you are comfortable with. Here, we have a community college, and no options.

Kara- Pawpaw has done great, grabbed the ball and run with it. How do we ensure they attend? What if someone is dishonest?

Mark- They need to furnish receipts. We can't double-check the security cameras.

Kara- Conference update, I think you may have all seen the post that the

Conference has been postponed/canceled for this year. So even though we did all this work, and thank you Gail for your work, this is something we can do next year.

- **Corvid 19 cancellations:**

Kara- Has anyone scheduled their meetings to go online?

David P- Pinellas has canceled our meeting and activities. We are going to try Zoom this Wednesday.

Kara- Val is here to answer questions about doing this.

Karen- Is there an account to do this?

Valerie- We have a Go2Meeting account, but it can only be used for one meeting at a time. I can check the schedule for chapters to use it – the Society would prefer if chapters found their own way. I think the easiest is Facebook Live, Go2Meeting and Zoom cost, Youtube Live is a good platform, but the setup is intensive. I can help walk chapters through setup.

Kara- If there is a chapter here that wants it, Val is here to help.

Karen- I'm confirming we have a meeting with you. What platform are we on?

Valerie- I have Go2Meeting setup.

Kara- Wasn't there a potential issue with "Zoom Bombing."

Valerie- That can happen on any platform, except Google Meet, Facebook Live and Youtube Live.

Kara- So you know, Zoom Bombing is where someone posts something obscene. How many counties have curfews or full lock downs? I see two hands. On one hand, I'm bummed about the Conference and selfishly about my own plans, but despite the negativity of the situation, this is an opportunity. If you establish your own Youtube Live or Zoom, you could stream to your members, or the whole state.

Val- Yes as many people as you want. Youtube Live automatically archives videos, and you can edit it later for posting. Our chapter meeting had about fourteen people attend online, which is about a normal meeting for us. We also had a small

beekeeping club with only four attend and it did get Zoom Bombed by two people. Gail- I attended the Villages online meeting and it was excellent. They had two speakers. Anyone know how many attended?

Valerie- I was there, but I don't know the attendance. They used Go2Meeting Webinar, but it's very expensive, about \$100 a month. We'll be putting their video up on our Youtube channel.

Kara- This can make the Society more accessible and spread our message.

****Feedback problem****

I asked the Facebook Florida Native Gardening group for webinar suggestions. Last I checked, there were about 150 comments. So there is interest.

Patricia- I came in late, and caught the end of the Regional Meeting Discussion. Just so everyone knows, our Regional Meeting is on hold until the end of summer or fall. We do need to talk about it. We may need to define it better. I didn't think of it like this type of meeting, but more educational. If we have to take Minutes, I'm not sure people will come.

Kara- I agree. I'm sure what you planned would have been awesome, but I'm sure people here that couldn't come would be interested in what happened. Not so much formal Minutes.

Patricia- Okay yes, that's very valid.

Kara- List topics discussed, as a jumping off point for other chapters, and if you have contacts for more information.

Valerie- I went to the Lake Beautyberry meeting location, to look at what we could do there.

Kara- Take the opportunity to learn about broadcasting your meetings. There are students like me without money to go out, and there's lots of interest in native plants.

- **Conference Annual Meeting:**

Kara- We normally vote for Officers at the Annual Meeting. They are working on finding a way to broadcast this.

- **Council Working Groups:**

Kara- Lastly, I don't know how busy you are, I sent out an email for Round Table topics. Is there any interest now for working groups on the Council SOP, etc.

Wendy- I volunteered for running SOP group.

Kara- I will help on that. I'm going to send a Doodlepoll to see who may help. There's not many meetings now and we have more time. The main ones are SOP, the website, organizing the Google Drive, and chapters wanting Round Table help.

Valerie- I can stay on to answer questions afterwards.

Mark- If there are people who want to go person-to-person and discuss chapter stuff, can we organize that? I like to connect with other chapters. I only hear about things through the grapevine.

Kara- I'm happy to coordinate that. It's important to network and hear what's going on.

Mark- I do like to hear what sister chapters are doing.

Kara- I'll work with Val on that. Feel free to stick around after the meeting, do some Q&A.

➤ **Open Floor**

- N/A

Patricia Burgos made motion to adjourn.

Mark Kateli 2nds.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36pm