



Florida Native Plant Society

Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 9/27/2020

Online GoTo Meeting

taken by Melanie Simon – CoC Secretary

Kara Driscoll called the meeting to order at 06:34 PM

In attendance (24) – 20 of 33 Chapters

*** indicates proxy or guest**

Broward – Stephanie Dunn
Citrus – Gail Taylor
Coccolobo – Lucy Breitung Fagan
Cuplet Fern – Mark Kateli
Cuplet Fern – Al Squires*
Dade – Kurt Birchenough
Eugenia – David Martin
Hernando – Janet Grabowski
Ixia – Ginny Stibolt*
Longleaf – Gabriel Campbell
Magnolia – Jan Blue
Martin – Dianna Wentink

Naples – Kara Driscoll - **CoC Chair**
Nature Coast – Diane Caruso
Passionflower – Melanie Simon - **CoC Secretary**
Pawpaw – Karen Walter
Pawpaw – Sande Habali
Pinellas – David Perkey
Sarracenia – Jeannie Brodhead
Sarracenia – David Rodenberry
Sparkleberry – Carol Sullivan
Sweetbay – Jonnie Smallman
Villages – Gary Babic
FNPS President – Bonnie Basham

➤ **Regular Agenda Items**

• **Minutes from previous meeting –**

Mark K. motioned to approve the August 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Lucy B. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

• **Reminders:** Next meeting scheduled for October 25 at 6:30.

• **Board News**

- FNPS license plate bill has been signed by the Governor. Plate design is not yet finalized. FNPS has from October 16, 2020 until October 15, 2021 to “sell” 3000 plates. Plates will be printed once 3000 are sold. Cost is \$25 in addition to regular registration fee – FNPS will get a little over \$20 per plate. Sue Mullins will be developing more details and marketing. Melanie will distribute the brief announcement Bonnie provided.

- Follow-up: Chapter Reps should share announcement with Chapters for inclusion in emails and newsletters.

➤ Old Business

• Inter-Chapter Disaster Relief Initiative

- Gabriel C. (Longleaf) and Jonnie S. (Sweetbay) reported no damage from Hurricane Sally.
- Mark K. explained the initiative is to help Chapters recover if they have unexpected expenses or disruptions to their operations and encouraged Chapters to participate, especially since weather events are happening more often.
- Bonnie B. said the FNPS Board is really pleased the Council is doing this and thanked Mark for starting and managing the initiative.
- Follow-up: Melanie will make sure Chapter Reps have a link to the draft pledge document.

• SOP Revision/New CoC Guidance Document

- Melanie S. reported that all comments received have been incorporated into the new Guidance document. No one had further comments.
- *Gail T. motioned to approve the new Guidance document to replacing the old SOP. Lucy B. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*
- Follow-up: Melanie will finalize the draft document and send it to Bonnie so it can replace the current Council section of the FNPS Handbook.

• Council Website and Communications

- Melanie S. explained she has revised much of the website. Most of the remaining works involves cleaning up (keep/revise/trash) documents and information under the “How To” and “Resources” tabs. Mark K. and Bonnie B. volunteered to help doing this review/clean-up.
- Mark K. commented that he likes having the announcements and current documents on the home page of the website where they are easy to find.
- Kara D. commented that the website goal is to have information that will help Chapters in addition to communication.
- Follow-up: Send comments on the new website to Melanie. Also contact Melanie if you can volunteer to help by reviewing a document or two and recommending whether to keep it and whether it needs to be updated.

• Orientation and Training

- Need volunteers for a subcommittee to further develop the list of orientation/training topics in the new Guidance document and decide how/when orientation and training should be conducted and consolidate the location of documents. Diane C., Lucy B., and Karen W. volunteered to help.
- Follow-up: Melanie will contact Wayne B. and set up an Orientation and Training subcommittee meeting to start this discussion. Anyone else who can volunteer should contact Melanie.

• Closed Captioning

- Kara D. reported Wayne B. has been looking into closed captioning to make educational programs more inclusive. Valerie Anderson is also looking into this.

- Mark K. asked if the cost was known. Kara reported Wayne is looking into this and hopes we can include this in the FNPS budget.
- Mark K. shared that YouTube does free captioning and translations. Kara will advise Wayne.
- Mark K. reported there is an Extension Agent who won the national coordinator award for diversity, equity and inclusion in the Master Gardener programs and suggested she may be willing to conduct a seminar. Bonnie B. suggested that Valerie invite this person to do a Lunch and Learn.
- Follow-up: Kara will coordinate with Wayne and Valerie. Anyone who wants to assist on this effort should contact Kara.
- Follow-up: Mark K. will email contact information for the Extension Agent.

➤ **New Business**

● **Online Elections**

- Gary B. inquired about doing online elections – Villages has an election coming up and he would like feedback about options and any bylaws issues since they will not have an in-person meeting.
- Melanie S. reported Passionflower did elections using an online polling program. Free, easy to use and useful summary report.
- Jonnie S. reported Sweetbay did their elections with a series of 3 emails. The first to solicit nominations, the second to announce nominees, and the third to ask approval of the slate.
- Kara D. said that unless bylaws explicitly state elections must be held in-person there shouldn't be a bylaws issue.
- Bonnie B. advised that at the start of the pandemic the Governor made a proclamation that allowed organizations to suspend bylaws requirements during the emergency. FNPS did online elections, so her opinion is that online elections are fine.
- Follow-up: Melanie will email polling program information to Gary.
- Follow-up: Kara D. asked that Chapters send her any other issues or feedback needed for inclusion on the agenda and discussion.

● **Strategic Plan**

- Kara D. asked for input on operational and aspirational goals for the FNPS Strategic Plan (on the FNPS Forum).
- Melanie S. suggested state-wide media campaigns to change perceptions of what "beautiful" landscaping looks like and to address plant blindness. Campaign could utilize various media including social media and individual Chapters can build on state-wide campaign.
- Ginny S. did an outreach presentation for Lunch and Learn that includes outreach ideas – she is willing to work with the Council and Chapters and share ideas about what Chapters can do.
- Follow-up: Chapter Reps should send input for the FNPS Strategic Plan to Bonnie B. (or to Kara or Melanie for forwarding).

● **May Conference**

- Ginny S. advised that the Conference committee has decided the May conference will be virtual.

- Chapters will be strongly encouraged to submit a short video or self-running power point about their Chapter/Chapter activities or any topic they want to talk about – this allows all Chapters to participate and take advantage of the conference being virtual.
- Ginny asked for suggestions about what the Conference should do for the Chapters – ideas for seminars or anything else of interest to Chapters.
- Follow-up: Chapters should start thinking about their videos for the Conference.
- Follow-up: Chapters should send Ginny S. ideas about what the conference should cover.
- **Roundtable Discussions and Chapter Reporting**
 - Kara D. asked for input on how the Council should be steered – how to balance business and other discussions. What should the Council be aiming for?
 - Mark K. expressed interest in hearing about what other Chapters are doing – this would help Chapters learn from each other and come up with new ideas. Kara D. said having Chapters give a 30-second to 1-minute report could be tried at the next meeting.
 - Kara D. asked about everyone’s opinion on roundtable discussions – what topics would be helpful? So meetings don’t go too long an option could be alternating business and roundtable meetings?
 - Sande H. asked (in Chat) about Chapters doing plant sales or other money-making activities. Mark K. reported Cuplet Fern had a plant sale and it went well. Kara will put it down as a topic for the next meeting.
 - Karen W. asked (in Chat) about roundtable topics and commented she likes hearing from other Chapters. Kara reported that in the past topics have included roadside wildflowers, rescues, advocacy, and grants.
 - Bonnie B. suggested doing the discussions as workshops and suggested inviting guests to speak on the chosen topic and provide advice. General roundtables might be too unstructured and what one Chapter did may not be relatable to other Chapters.
 - Melanie S. said she has been working on a survey – quick way of getting Chapter feedback. Answers to a question about areas of concern could determine subjects for the roundtable discussions (or workshops).
 - Follow-up: Melanie will send out a survey.
 - Follow-up: Send ideas to Kara and Melanie about topics for roundtable discussions and/or reporting.

Mark K. made a motion to adjourn.
Janet G. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 PM