

Council of Chapters Informal Meeting 3/7/21

Attending: Kara Driscoll (Naples), Karen Walter (Pawpaw), Linda Eastman (Martin), Marjorie Shropshire, Stephanie Dunn (Broward), Wendy Poag (Lake Beautyberry), Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry), Diane Caruso (Nature Coast), Gail Taylor (Citrus), Molly (Nature Coast), Sue Egloff (The Villages), Gary Babic (The Villages), Al Squires (Cuplet Fern), Ginny Stibolt (Ixia), Virginia Overstreet (Suncoast), Patricia Burgos (Lake Beautyberry), Carol Sullivan (Sparkleberry), Linda Manley (?), Sande (Pawpaw), Christina (Sea Rocket), Janet Grabowski (Hernando), Lucy Brietung (Coccoloba), David Martin (Eugenia), Virginia Overstreet (Suncoast), Janet (Sarracenia), David Perkey (Pinellas), David Roddenberry (Sarracenia), Helen Laurence (Magnolia), Jody Wood-Putnam (Bay)

6:33 PM – Kara Driscoll calls the meeting to order. Kara gives a general overview of the Citizen’s Guide and Insert project. Marjorie Shropshire then gives a more in-depth, page by page overview hitting the topics of each page/panel. Marjorie then discusses the insert and the regional aspect with the selection of seven native plant communities, unique areas where people can see the communities. When composing the insert, she advises regions on photos and copy to explain why the communities are important and how they are different. The focus is bringing the beauty of native plants home. Marjorie asked for input on the main citizen’s guide, hearing none, Kara then began discussion on printing timeline with Marjorie stating that July was the target month.

Discussion followed on selection of areas to highlight with Wendy Poag stating that regions should select not just parks and pine plantations. Kara added that the objective of these educational materials is to highlight the best of Florida’s natural ecosystems and their exemplary sites.

Discussion then turned to breaking up the state into regions, starting with south Florida and working north and towards the Panhandle. Marjorie drew different sections during the long discussion. Map will be available to regional coordinators. There was discussion also on “adopting” counties that don’t have a chapter. Concern was mainly for the Big Bend area, Pandhandle and Lake Okeechobee area.

As discussion centered on the northeast of Florida, it was stated during the meeting that there is currently no regional coordinator for the Ixia, St. Johns area.

Kara then moved on the next agenda item stating to the meeting participants that the State Board had a retreat meeting where the 2021 Strategic Plan was discussed. Ideas would be shared with the Council of Chapter members. Kara also posed the question to the group that

was posed to the Board members – “if money were no object what would you suggest for FNPS’s plan.” Kara asked the group to take this question back to their chapters.