

Siesta Key Association Members Overwhelmingly Support SKA’s Positions on Major Issues

Siesta Key Association recently surveyed its members to get their feedback on SKA’s positions regarding the major issues SKA has been addressing in recent months. The survey addressed the Big Pass dredging proposal, Siesta Promenade, the potential hotel proposal, SKA’s Bicycle Safety Initiative, the County’s decision to vacate a portion of Beach Road and the petitions for County Charter Amendments currently being circulated for signatures. SKA also asked their members if they would like SKA to hold a presentation at one of its monthly meetings about the proposed Charter Amendments.

Harold Ashby, President of SKA, said, “The response to our survey was phenomenal. We received responses from over 50% of our members and, in all cases, we received overwhelming support for SKA’s positions on the important issues we’re managing for our members. It shows that our members are engaged and interested in the work of SKA. We also received 710 comments and suggestions from members, many of whom said that our survey helped them better understand the issues and they appreciated being kept informed.”

The SKA positions the members were asked to evaluate are:

Issue	Ratio of “Yes” to “No”
Big Pass - SKA’s legal actions to stop the permitting process for dredging Big Pass so other solutions can be evaluated that will do no harm to Siesta Key and Big Pass.	22 to 1
Siesta Promenade - SKA’s push for no increase in density or intensity and oppose any plan that will exacerbate traffic congestion.	23 to 1
Potential Hotel Proposal – Oppose any increase in intensity or density over what is currently allowed in the County’s Comprehensive Plan	18 to 1
South Siesta Key Parking Lot – SKA’s support for developing a parking lot at the County-owned site along Midnight Pass Rd., south of Stickney Point Rd.	15 to 1
Bicycle Safety Initiative – Support for SKA’s Bicycle Safety Initiative including gaining Bicycle Friendly Community Status for Siesta Key.	16 to 1
Beach Road Vacation – SKA’s decision to take no further action following the County Commissions decision to vacate a portion of Beach Road; a decision which SKA directors opposed at the time it was made by the County Commission.	3 to 1
County Charter Amendment Petitions – SKA’s decision to take no position regarding the petitions.	2 to 1

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SKA also asked its members if they would support SKA hosting a presentation on the proposed County Charter Amendment Petitions at one of its monthly public meetings. Six out of ten members supported such a presentation while four out of ten members did not or had no opinion. Said Mr. Ashby, "The Beach Road issue has received much publicity over the last year. We're pleased to accommodate our members' wishes by hosting a presentation that will explain the Petitions that are intended to get the Charter Amendments on the ballot in a future election while, at the same time, avoid commentary on the ongoing litigation related to the County's Commission's decision in May, 2016, which will be decided by the Courts. Petitions for ballot initiatives are part of our democratic process, which SKA supports. If the Petitions receive the necessary number of signatures to be placed on a future ballot, SKA will consider taking a position on the issues at that time."

SKA said this is their second survey in recent months. Their first survey was designed to measure the level of support for the Siesta Key Breeze Free Trolley that was started in March. That survey showed that SKA members overwhelmingly support the Trolley which helped SKA successfully advocate for continued County funding for the Trolley after the initial funding expires in August. Recently, the County Administrator announced that the Trolley would receive continued County funding for another six months while the County looks for ways to make the Trolley a permanent fixture on Siesta Key.

"We are very pleased that our members value our surveys as a way to have their voices heard by decision makers. We're committed to listening to our members and we invite all who would like their voices heard to join SKA and speak out for Siesta Key. Our website, *SiestaKeyAssociation.com* describes the issues we are following in more depth and we invite the public to share their thoughts with us through email at info@SiestaKeyAssociation.com" said Mr. Ashby.

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