

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday December 5, 2019

Present: Catherine Luckner, Joyce Kouba, Bob Luckner, Dan Lundy, Erin Kreis, Jean Cannon, Tom Surprise, and Eddie Ward

COMMUNITY WELCOME/GUEST SIGN-IN
CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Luckner

Catherine called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors, new members, and returning members. She introduced Jean Cannon to request approval of the Siesta Key Association (SKA) monthly meetings for June and November. The Joyce agreed and Dan 2nd the motion, and the board approved the minutes.

All SKA meeting minutes are available on the SKA website <https://siestakeyassociation.com/>

Catherine concluded the open remarks and introduced Sgt. Arik Smith from the Sheriff's Office for the Sheriff Office Siesta Key November report.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office Sgt. Arik Smith

Sgt. Smith let us know his office has been busy with the November holidays and planning for coming up ones as well as the other events such as the Siesta Key Sand Classic. He that the Sheriff's Office handled about 300 calls for service in November and the crime held at 4% Part 1 crimes ('smash & grab', residential burglaries, robberies, and theft). He reported that the Beach Access areas could have problems at this time of the year with items visible in cars, and there was some smash a grab-action but not similar to the ones that happen in September. Those were more organized and appeared to be executed by a group of people. Sgt. Smith expects December to be busy with the visitors and the holidays.

A question was asked about golf carts on the roads without lights. Sgt. Smith stated that golf carts are to have lights, seat belts, and tags. These carts are only allowed on roads that are posted for 30 miles an hour, part of Midnight Pass is posted for no golf carts as the speed limit is higher.

GUEST SPEAKER

Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum Phil Chiochio,

Phil Chiochio, who previously presented the mini reef project, updated the audience status and the proposals for the Siesta Key Grand Canal. Sandy Gilbert from START added additional information on the benefits of under-dock mini-reefs. The links to the websites on START and the Mini Reefs

<https://start1.org/news/mini-reefs-on-longboat-key/>

<https://start1.org/tag/mini-reefs/>

The purpose of the mini reefs is to improve the habitat for marine life and the water quality by filtering out pollutants and adding oxygen to the water. In making a case for the mini reef project, Phil offered a history lesson about the Siesta Key Island feature and specifically about the area around the Grand Canal. He stated that the 'Grand Canal is not happy.' Check the Siesta Key Association for more information on his proposal and mini reef projects (see below for link.)

<https://siestakeyassociation.com/mini-reefs-possible-solution-to-improve-canal-water-quality/>

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Sarasota County Wendy Crisp

Wendy Crisp discussed the rollout of the new Waste Management containers for recyclables. Residents will be using new containers starting during the week of January 6. The old recyclable (red and blue small) containers should not be used after the 6th, and only the new containers will be picked up. All recyclables paper, cardboard, plastic, cans, glass, etc. will be in the recyclable container. Everything is now in a single container. There is no reason to separate items. Wendy also went over the list of recyclables, including stating that on plastic contains 1 thru 7 are now recyclables are accessible. Things such as single-use plastic bags, Styrofoam, packing peanuts, etc. are to be thrown out and leave caps on plastic bottles. These are not recyclables. Her advice is 'when in doubt, throw it out.'

Michael has a problem with trash build-up and attracting rodents. He wants an additional pick up on the Key. Jean suggested that this discussion of RMF-Vacation Rental come off-line, and he and I should discuss some solutions.

Joyce suggested residents that wanted to get rid of their carts take them to a reuse shop, Goodwill, etc. as they may be able to use them as bins. The County started the rollout of the new carts on Nov 6, and they are on track to complete distribution countywide by Dec 27th. The County will distribute 130,000 carts. You suggested that if we have time, we should visit the recycling facility. Should you need more information or have a question, the website link for more information is below.

<https://www.scgov.net/government/public-utilities-water/sarasota-county-recycles>

BOARD REPORTS

Membership: Joyce reminded members that SKA memberships are to be renewed at the end of December for 2020. Members can use the website or mail in a check.

Big Pass Legal Update Bob Luckner

Judge McHugh rules against SKA and we are appealing the ruling. Dan Lundy comments about how you can't fight city hall and how we are being victimized by the State and the City of Sarasota. He encouraged the Associate members to support what Bob and Catherine have been doing financially.

Siesta Promenade Update Jim Walsh

Judge McHugh ruled against Jim and Sura on their suite to stop the Siesta Promenade from proceeding. They put together a team and on Monday, the Judge denied their petition. Two issues are natural for appeal, and we think the best choice of the two is the chevron-defense. Because Benderson pulled together these various parcels but did not consider out how they would get out – perfect Hotel California piece of property, you can get in but can't get out. They need a new traffic light on Stickney Point to get out, and the traffic light will impact the traffic coming and going from Siesta Key via the South Bridge. County put in their approval of the project if FDOT approves the light on Stickney Point, and Court included this comment in the ruling decision.

Catherine discussed the FDOT road swap meeting. This meeting FDOT PUBLIC Hearing for River Road/Transfer Public Meeting will happen next week, and there will be audience comments. The point of the public hearing is to get FDOT to go on record that: FDOT retains the authority for the light decision and the safety and the circular path North and South exits. FDOT is aware of the road problems and potential disaster a new light would cause. Catherine stated that one of the Commissioners had stated a

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strong interest in transportation, and he is planning to attend the FDOT Transportation meeting. (Note: The Commissioner did not attend the meeting.)

Jim said also had to agree with Dan and state that he also very much appreciates Bob and Catherine's work. He said it is incredible what is going on at our State, County, and with the Promenade. We need to stop the project to protect our Key, and the group agreed. Jim will be asking for additional funds to continue this fight.

ADJOURNMENT

Catherine adjourned the meeting. **Next SKA monthly meeting is January 9th at 4:30 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Cannon, Secretary
Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

Submitted by: Margaret Jean Cannon, Secretary of Siesta Key Association of Sarasota Inc.