

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, June 1, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Harold Ashby called the meeting to order. Present: Harold Ashby, Joyce Kouba, Gene Kusekoski, Catherine Luckner, Marilyn Romanus, Bob Spicer, and Joe Volpe.

MINUTES

Joyce Kouba

May Minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sarasota County

Commissioner Alan Maio

- Sarasota County received a grant to install 40 cigarette urns at Siesta and Turtle Beaches.
- The Siesta Breeze Trolley was considered hugely successful, averaging 1700 riders per day at startup. The County extended the service for 6 months and intends to extend it further after February.
- The County removed the old Siesta Key utility property from the surplus land sales. The Utility department has agreed that they do not want to sell it and would agree to a non-intrusive use. This will provide about 140 parking places and a trolley turn around.
- The Commissioners received emails, and have talked with staff, regarding Memorial Day trash.

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Sgt. Mruczek commented that Memorial Day was one of the busiest experienced. The Sheriff's Department is preparing for July 4th. A resident of Siesta Estates reported that on Memorial Day, people parked on the right of way where they had just finished planting grass and landscape plants. Five individuals called the Sheriff's Department and were told it was private property and not within the

jurisdiction of the Sheriff. The audience was somewhat confused at the explanation, but it seems to boil down to this: If a car parks on private property, Sheriffs have no jurisdiction unless an altercation occurs or there is illegal activity. In this case cars were parked on the right-of-way, clearly marked with “No Parking on the right-of-way” signs. Sgt. Mruczek did not receive any calls but will check into the issue.

Code Enforcement

Susan Staley

Susan Staley, Siesta Key Code Enforcement Officer, encouraged people to call or email her with any code related issues. An individual inquired about illegal rentals? Susan said it is difficult to obtain evidence for illegal rentals, and then to prove the case in court. However, please do continue to report illegal rentals, otherwise she may not know about them. As Susan gains experience, she is finding additional ways to investigate cases.

Big Pass Dredge

Catherine Luckner

Catherine thanked everyone who has donated to the Siesta Key Environmental Defense Fund (SKEDF), which is currently funding the legal challenge to dredging Big Pass. She noted that Mike Holderness’ offer to match \$1000 in donations resulted in a substantial donation. SKA still needs financial help for the August Administrative Appeal.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Emergency Services Director
Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief

Rich Collins
Ed McCrane

Rich emphasized that all County employees are involved in Emergency preparedness. They constantly prepare for and update plans for emergency response. One of government’s primary roles is safety. All County departments support Ed McCrane’s team.

Ed made his 12th annual visit to SKA and as usual provided an educational and, at times, humorous presentation. Sarasota’s slogan for preparedness is “The first 72 are on you.” When roadways are clogged, emergency services can’t get to people

immediately, so citizens should be prepared to make it on their own for 72 hours after an emergency. Cell phones manufactured after 2012 have a chip to allow receipt of wireless emergency alerts. Keep your cell phone on. Put together a disaster kit. Have a plan. Know your safe room (away from windows and doors) when an emergency occurs. If driving, stop, stay in car. Do not climb under freeway overpasses as debris frequently lodges there. Siesta Key is in evacuation zone A and is a mandatory evacuation zone if 5 – 10 feet of storm surge approaches. If your plan is to leave, leave early for a shelter, friend, motel. Bridges may not survive. A disaster planning guide is available on the emergency services web page. (Like Sarasota County Emergency Services Facebook page.) Register for Code Red at scgov.net to receive emergency warnings. An attendee asked about experience with multi-story buildings. The higher up, the worse it can be because windows can be blown out. Don't stay. The building will have no electricity or water. If you evacuate to a motel, be sure that they will be staffed. Shelter locations will be announced to the new media and will be on Facebook when evacuation appears necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Harold announced that SKA will send a new survey to members starting at midnight, June 1. Members who have not provided an email address to SKA will not receive a survey.

The June 12th Board of Zoning Appeals meeting will be a public hearing regarding setback requirements for buildings on Siesta Key. The Zoning Administrator stated that the setback would be a minimum of 25 ft. or more for buildings over 35 feet. The applicant states that due to conflicting statements regarding setbacks, the setback should be only 2 feet. Please attend to express your views.

Joe Volpe is the new point Director for issues related to waterways.

ADJOURNMENT

Herold adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

Next SKA monthly meeting is July 6, 2017 at 4:30 pm.