

# SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Thursday, May 4, 2017**

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## MINUTES

Joyce Kouba

April Minutes were unanimously approved.

## NEW DIRECTORS

Joyce introduced Bob Spicer as a new Director. Marilyn Romanus was also elected as a new director but was absent due to illness.

## COMMUNITY REPORTS

### Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Mruczek

Sgt. Mruczek reported that spring break was over and all is quiet. Historically, there were no questions, problems, or issues for Sgt. Mruczek. SKA has received several calls regarding illegal rentals.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Trolley

Gene provided results from SKA's recent member survey. Most respondents wanted to keep the trolley. Most popular destination was the village. Split on seasonal or all year. Most people want to keep it free. People north of Village would like the route extended north.

### Wastewater Plant Decommission

The project is on schedule. A traffic light will be temporarily installed at Beach Way and Beach Road during the time that Shadow Lawn Way is closed by construction.

### Big Pass Dredge

SKA is still in fund-raising mode for the Big Pass dredge litigation. This is not just a Siesta Key/Lido Key issue. It concerns the entire greater Sarasota region. Any degradation of Siesta beach will have regional economic impact. Also, boaters from the entire region who use the “boat park” at the Big Pass shoal will be deprived of this unique recreational venue. Dredging equipment will be on view in the pass for 50 years. (SKA is behind in sending acknowledgements for donations to SKEDF, please be patient.) The loss of our shoals (based in Army Corp data) will increase wave action along the Siesta Key pass shoreline up to Bay Island and also Bird key .This increased risk to homes, docks, seawalls, seagrass loss, Manatee and fishing , will impact our ecotourism dollars. This tourism income keeps our property rates the second lowest in the State . All of us will be impacted by Coastal water quality changes from a dredge of the Big pass shoals.

### Public Comments

Elizabeth Gomez, Mike Consentino’s lawyer, reported that Mike did not have sufficient signatures for his requested special meeting. She was available after the meeting to speak with those interested.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Tommy Vaughn-Birch  
Mote Marine Speakers Bureau

Tommy provided information about Red Tide and Mote Marine’s research on this organism. Red Tide has been around at least 10,000 years and is ever present in the Gulf. Red Tide becomes a problem when it “blooms.” Shellfish harvesting is closed down when levels reach 5000 cells per liter. Eating shellfish tainted by red tide can result in Neurotoxin shellfish poisoning which is the most fatal condition

resulting from red tide. Causes of blooms are not fully understood but seem to be effected by water temperature, salinity, wind weather, nutrients, and water current. Once blooms are present nutrients introduced in the water can increase duration of blooms. Research is investigating ozone and macro algae for controlling blooms. Several applications are being developed to take water samples via smart phone and drone. Questions can be directed to Mote Marine via their website.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

**Next SKA monthly meeting is June 1, 2017 at 4:30 pm.**