

# SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, August 4, 2016

## CALL TO ORDER

Bob Stein called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Joyce Kouba, Bob Miller, Bob Stein, and Joe Volpe. June minutes were approved.

## COMMUNITY REPORTS

### Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Sgt. Jason Mruczek reported that the Sheriff's office was ramping up for Labor Day weekend and stated that there were no issues of note. Dave Thomas thanked Sgt. Mruczek for the added patrol on Treasure Boat and in the "Sandies." He stated that it resulted in a marked improvement. Another attendee stated that she felt that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was much improved due to added presence and direction of the Sheriff's deputies.

The deputies have been working with the County director of services for the homeless to get help for individuals on the Key. Mark Smith, Vice President of SKVA, reported an incident where someone had defecated at the Gazebo as an example of those homeless who are not looking for help. If you see something that is an unlawful activity, call the Sheriff's department. An attendee stated that people were sleeping on the benches at the beach picnic tables and wondered whether it is legal to sleep at the beach. People can sleep at the beach, however, they cannot camp. The beach parking lot closes at 10 p.m.; the beach is always open.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Kathleen Croteau, Building Official, Sarasota County  
Sarasota County Flood Plain Ordinance

Kathleen Croteau explained proposed changes to Sarasota County's Flood Plain Ordinance. The County sent post cards to owners of parcels where the flood plain designation has changed. (There were probably no changes to parcels on Siesta Key.) The primary change is to allow the County to "auto-adopt" new FEMA flood plain maps. This will mean that as soon as FEMA provides a new flood plain map, it will automatically be adopted by Sarasota County. The bulk of the ordinance changes are for minimal compliance with the National Flood Insurance

Program and for better organization of the document. Other changes involve manufactured home regulations to include recreational vehicles. The Flood Plain Ordinance and Flood plain maps are available on the County web site under Geographical Information Services. The public hearing for the amendment is September 7. Comments can be submitted directly to the County or to the SKA info email address ([info@siestakeyassociation.com](mailto:info@siestakeyassociation.com)) and SKA will forward the comments to the County.

An attendee asked how multiple repairs and renovations were treated in applying FEMA's 50% rule. If repairs and renovations are done as one project, all expenditures are considered collectively for the 50% application. If an individual renovates a home and then later has an unrelated repair on the home, the two projects would be considered as individual projects and the 50% rule applied to each project separately. However, renovation projects are not allowed to be "phased" with multiple phases of one project, each one under the 50% limit. For example adding the shell of a bath and then as a later phase, completing the interior of the bath. Currently, Sarasota County has no 5-year cumulative tracking.

An attendee asked whether there was anything in the ordinance that prohibits intentional runoff from a property flooding streets.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Lido Beach Renourishment

Bob Stein

Bob reported that SKA requested that the County call for an Environmental Impact Study for the of the City of Sarasota/US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposed Lido Renourishment Project and a withdrawal of the Finding of No Significant Impact filed with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). USACE also has not provided the Biological Opinion requested by the FDEP. There is a 14-day window to challenge a permit. Mark Smith announced that the estimate for legal fees is about \$250,000. Anyone wishing to donate to the legal fund may contact Mark.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Beach Trash Bag Project

Joe Volpe

Veronica Murphy reported that on July 4th weekend volunteers passed out 1000 bags for trash. She added that they seemed to be used; none were found on the beach. Plans are to hand out 2500 bags for Labor Day. The bags are biodegradable. Anyone wishing to help can contact SKA through [info@siestakeyassociation.com](mailto:info@siestakeyassociation.com). Veronica is working with the major Siesta Key organizations to get an informal adopt-an-access program in place. An attendee suggested that the County should collect the garbage more frequently. The condo area of the beach has more

trash because the County does not clean that area. The County only cleans the public beach. Veronica contacted rental managers to provide bags to renters and was enthusiastically received. She plans to talk to the County about more frequent trash collection. She is also hoping to find a way to monitor items being brought to the beach.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Stein adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

**Next SKA monthly meeting is Thursday, 9/1/2016 at 4:30 pm.**