

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Michael Shay called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Beverly Arias, Helen Clifford, Deet Jonker, Joyce Kouba, Catherine Luckner, Dan Lundy, Michael Shay, Robert Stein, and Joe Volpe. November minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS - Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek reported a quiet month with not much happening. An attendee asked for clarification of the law governing excessive noise. She said vacationing neighbors had been causing considerable commotion in the wee hours of the morning, and threatened her when she asked that they quiet down. Sgt. Mruczek told her to call 316-1201, the non-emergency number.

Michael Shay thanked the Sheriff's Office for helping push SKA's float—a 1972 fire truck—off the road when it broke down during the Light up the Village Parade.

Joe Volpe presented Lt. Casper with check for \$250 from the SKA for the Sheriff's fund for needy families.

GUEST SPEAKER

Storm Water Drainage Project at Ocean/Higel

Ben Quartermaine, P.E., Sarasota County Public Utilities Storm Water Engineer

Using maps, Ben Quartermaine illustrated that storm water from the east side of Higel is designed to drain into the Grand Canal. The West side of Higel and Ocean was not originally designed to drain into the Grand Canal, but instead drained into the lake and then out to the Gulf. However, shifting sands have shut off that drainage. Sarasota County Public Utilities (SCPU) wants to reroute some of the west side drainage into the Grand Canal. They would like to pipe the ditch along Ocean Blvd and also along Higel so that more storm water drains into the Grand Canal.

The project is currently in the design and permitting stage. SCPU must address water quality being dumped into the Grand Canal before a permit can be obtained.

SCPU would only be allowed to work during times of the day which will not conflict with school pick-up at ODA. It is unlikely that this project could start before next summer. The contingency plan is to have a pump system if needed.

A resident expressed concern about the current drainage pattern, citing flooding on his street. Quartermaine offered to work with that resident to investigate the situation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Drive

Beverly Arias said the Drive had started for 2016. Deet Jonker reminded everyone that it saves time and money if members join on-line instead of by mail. Go to www.SiestaKeyAssociation.com to join. The fee is \$30. The more members SKA has, the more attention they will get from local government.

Nominating

Joyce Kouba introduced Daniel Lundy, the new SKA Director.

Environmental - Big Pass:

Catherine Luckner reported that currently nothing scheduled. The Army Corps of Engineers and the DEP are still studying the Atkins Report. It will be at least 2017 before the Army Corps can take any action. Commissioner Mayo restated that he would not vote for anything harmful to Siesta Key, but would, work to get some sand for Lido.

OLD BUSINESS

Siesta Key Focus Group

Michael Shay was delighted with the group's first meeting. There were 10 participants, 6 of whom were SKA members. They brainstormed for two hours, and will share their recommendations at a later date.

Beach Garbage Bag Project

Michael Shay said SKA has permission from the County for a pilot program to provide a dispenser with bags at one of the beach entrances. The idea is to remove trash from the beach. A proposed motto is: **ENJOY IT/REMOVE IT.**

Roundabout Proposal at Beach Rd. & Midnight Pass

It appears this project has been shelved. All changes requested by SKA have been incorporated.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The public is urged to attend the meetings and provide input on spending priorities.

Annual SKA Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

SKA minutes reflect the column written by Diana Colson and published in the Siesta Sand newspaper with additions by the association secretary.

Next SKA monthly meeting is Thursday, 1/7/2016 at 4:30 pm.