

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

MINUTES for FEBRUARY 5, 2015

WELCOME

Michael Shay called the meeting of the Siesta Key Association (SKA) to order. A quorum was present: Beverly Arias, Helen Clifford, Joyce Kouba, Catherine Luckner, Troy Roberts, Michael Shay, Robert Stein, Joe Volpe, Paul Wilkinson.

MINUTES

The January minutes were approved as amended.

ATTENDEES: 40

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Scott Osborne

Sgt. Osborne said that there has been a crime spike in Central Sarasota, but things have gone well on Siesta Key. The main problems here have been illegal parking on North Shell Road and dogs on the beach. As for the Sunday Drum Circle, the Sheriff's Office has put more manpower out there, and things have improved.

The Sheriff's Office is getting ready for Spring Break. From March first to the end of April, the population of Siesta Key triples causing the Sheriff's Office to increase its presence.

Sgt. Osborne introduced other members of his department, including Capt. John Walsh, who explained the pro-active philosophy of the department. "We like to go to where the people are. When someone calls in a complaint we like to be able to say that we know about the situation and are taking care of it." Capt. Walsh plans to discourage crime during Spring Break by ramping up the presence of the Sheriff's Office and creating a buffer around Siesta Key.

Code Enforcement

John Lally

John said that he now has 3 to 4 illegal rentals going to court every month. Island Circle has been a particular problem. All illegal rentals are reported to the Property Appraiser, the Tax Collector, and the State Department of Revenue.

When asked about parking, John said **YES**, cars can be parked in private yards, but **NO**, private parties cannot charge for parking. John said that if a citizen knows of any issue on Siesta Key that involves the County (fallen street signs, street lights out, etc.,) call the County Call Center: [941-861-5000](tel:941-861-5000). They will respond within 24 - 48 hours

Sarasota County Neighborhood Services

Miranda Lansdale

Miranda urged all Neighborhood Associations to sign up for the Neighborhood Directory to be notified of pertinent meetings. She invited people to attend Sarasota's Civics 101 class. Neighborhood Services also provides grants for neighborhoods that wish to improve safety, preserve character and value, enhance physical and environmental health, and build leadership. Each applicant is eligible for up to \$10,000 in matching funds. Grants have been given for such things as entry way signs, benches, doggy-bag stations, and shoreline restoration of retention ponds. For more information call 941 861-5000 or go to neighbor@scgov.net. Miranda also invited individuals to attend the Comprehensive Plan Update kickoff meeting, February 11 at 4:30 at the new Gulf Gate Library.

GUEST SPEAKER

Bill Hartman and Ben Walker

Florida Department of Transportation

OPTIONS FOR BEACH ROAD and MIDNIGHT PASS INTERSECTION

Bill Hartman presented options being considered to improve the Midnight Pass (SR 758) and Beach Roads intersection. The intersection has been studied to see what can be done to improve pedestrian safety and to process more traffic. Pedestrian safety is the driving issue for this project.

The options under consideration are: 1) do nothing, 2) remain signalized and remove the free-flow right turn, and 3) build a roundabout.

The existing intersection provides 9 vehicle conflict points and 7 pedestrian conflict points. A one-lane roundabout would provide fewer conflict points and process more traffic at a slower, safer speed. Cost of the roundabout would be approximately 2 million dollars. Cost of remaining signalized and removing the free-flow right turn would be about ½ million dollars. “Doing nothing” incurs no costs and no improvement. The project is still in its preliminary stage. A public workshop will be held shortly. Discussion of the pros and cons of the various options followed the presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment

Catherine Luckner

Catherine reported that the City of Sarasota is placing 197,000 cubic yards of sand along the Lido shoreline, so SKA hopes that the shoreline will not need as much sand for the Army Corps of Engineer project. The Corps of Engineers has not yet come up with its revised plan for the Lido re-nourishment project. They will be changing the profile of the groins and reducing their size. Wildlife issues are also surfacing, which complicates permitting. Waivers would need to be applied for and issued. This is not a speedy process. When the Corps finally comes up with their revised plan, there will be a second chance for the public to receive answers to their questions and to provide additional input.

OLD BUSINESS

The **Siesta Key Waste Water Treatment Plant** will be decommissioned in 2016. SKA will form a committee, chaired by Bob Stein, to study use after the decommissioning. **Bob is** looking for member volunteers to serve.

Avenida Madera & Avenida Milano : Michael Shay reported that these two streets successfully petitioned to have parking bans on one side of the street due to safety issues. Parking on both sides leaves no room for emergency vehicles.

Municiple Parking Lot - SKA is looking for a resolution to the issue of large RVs and trucks parking in the Municipal Parking Lot, where they sometimes take up two or more spaces. This issue will come up before the County Commissioners.

(Currently, all vehicles are allowed, but cannot be parked there for more than 72 hours.)

NEW BUSINESS

SKA Annual Breakfast, Saturday, March 7, 8:00 – 11:00 AM

This Annual Breakfast will replace the regular first Thursday meeting which would have been held on March 5th.

2015 Great American Cleanup will take place on Saturday, March 21 in the early morning. The County provides t-shirts.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Shay adjourned the meeting. The next SKA meeting will be the Annual Breakfast, March 7th.

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.