

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, February 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Michael Shay called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Beverly Arias, Harold Ashby, Deet Jonker, Joyce Kouba, Catherine Luckner, Dan Lundy, Michael Shay, and Joe Volpe. January minutes were approved.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR

Joyce Kouba introduced new SKA Board Director, Harold Ashby. Bob Miller will be introduced at the breakfast meeting.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

- Sgt. Jason Mruzec reported that Siesta Key does not have a stolen car problem. The two stolen car reports last month have been resolved: the Hummer was located and the rental car driver forgot where he had parked.
- Homes were egged in the Oxford/Treasure Boat area. Just prior to the egging, teenagers purchased eggs from the Siesta Market. The Sheriff has surveillance video, license plate number, and car description: a dark color newer Jeep Wrangler. Joe Volpe reported that a similar occurrence happened at Thanksgiving. Please report suspicious cruising cars to the Sheriff's non emergency number: 316-1201.
- The office is ramping up for spring break.
- A member of the audience raised the issue of "gawkers" following the recent tornado and wondered whether the Sheriff's office had a plan to discourage this behavior in the future. Illegal parking can be ticketed and roads could possibly be closed.

GUEST SPEAKER

Energy Upgrade: Saving Energy, Water and Money at Home

Lee Hayes Byron, Sarasota County Sustainability Manager

- Sarasota County provides Energy upgrade seminars which include kits of energy-saving items. The seminar focuses on how energy is used in a Florida home and where to target energy savings strategies. The biggest Florida energy user is air conditioning (AC). Second are plug-in devices and appliances. Third is water heating. The biggest energy-using appliance is a refrigerator. Over half of water use is irrigation. Toilets are the largest inside water users. 5% of water use is due to leaks.
- energyupgradetoday.com provides information and checklists for no-cost, low-cost, moderate-cost, and investment-cost energy and water saving strategies.
- Federal incentives and programs to encourage energy and water saving can be found at dsireusa.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Drive

Beverly Arias reminded attendees that it benefits SKA if you join on-line at www.SiestaKeyAssociation.com. You can also leave a message at 941.364.4880 or join by mail. To aid SKA in more by email, ensure your profile on the SKA web site includes your email address. SKA communicating does not share membership information with any other organization. Deet Jonker stated that membership is \$30 annually with no pro rata rate.

Environmental - Big Pass

- From the first announcement of this project, many groups got involved including home owners associations, the SKA Chamber of Commerce, and SOS2. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has stated that they cannot ask any new questions of the Army Corps of

Engineers (COE) that were not included in the original Request for Information (RAI). Because SKA's letter of concern was submitted to the DEP prior to the RAI, the comments of SKA continue to be included in each RAI to the COE. We continue to need your voices and talent. Catherine Luckner reported that the County continues to oppose legislation to regulate coastal armoring and associated adverse impact to coastal systems. The County staff is communicating with the City of Sarasota to review the Atkins study. SKA continues to work for a solution to Lido's erosion problem that would do "NO HARM" to Siesta Key. The COE application status is incomplete. If the Corps does not respond to all questions from DEP before April 7, 2016 (6-month deadline) their application may be dismissed without prejudice. The Corps can reapply or ask to be extended. Bob Luckner stated that he hopes that the City, County, and COE can come up with a plan that will be agreeable to all concerned. Bob believes that the County Commission

OLD BUSINESS

For those interested, Mike has a contact in the Sheriff's marine unit.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joe Volpe encouraged all to get friends and neighbors to join SKA to add impact to SKA's voice when we advocate on your behalf.
- He reminded members to make reservations for the Annual Membership Breakfast on March 5th.
- February 14th is the annual "Say I Do Again" event at Siesta Beach.
- February 20th is the grand opening of the improved Siesta Beach.
- A member asked about the trimming of the trees at the beach. She was also concerned about the Australian pines obscuring beach view. Mike suggested that she express her concerns in an email to SKA so that we can direct them to the appropriate contact.
- A member asked about the status of the Benderson project at Stickney Point and US 41. There is no new status on this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

Next SKA meeting is the annual breakfast, Saturday 3/5/2016

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