

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

MINUTES for JANUARY 8, 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, Michael Shay, Robert Stein, Joe Volpe.

Minutes

The December minutes were approved.

Attendees: 30

Community Reports

Sheriff's Office

In honor of *First Responder Appreciation Week*, **Sgt. Scott Osborne** was acknowledged by SKA for his outstanding contribution to the community.

Once again, Sgt. Osborne was pleased to report that there are no real crime trends. A couple of kayaks and bikes were stolen at the south end of the Key. He said that bike rental shops have been told to record the serial numbers of their bikes. Thieves go to condos, cut locks, and take the stolen bikes to a pawn shop, where they get only \$30 for a \$500 bike. Serial numbers are needed to recover these stolen bikes.

The new parking lot at Siesta Key Beach is expected to be open before Spring Break. Sgt. Osborne admitted that the current set-up of the lot is indeed confusing; however, it is still under construction. Hopefully the situation will improve once construction is complete.

Sgt. Osborne predicted that January and February would remain quiet. March and April present a totally different situation because of the influx of spring breakers.

New problems have surfaced at Siesta Key Beach on Sunday evenings after the Drum Circle. Family groups leave when it gets dark, and lately new groups have started coming in for a rave party after the drum circle is over. 300 to 400 people attend and have started heading for balconies. Sgt. Osborne said, "We've been shutting the electricity off, but now people are bringing in their own generators. I can see this becoming a problem if we don't address it right now."

A question was posed to the Sergeant: What can be done to stop this or close the beach or parking lot? Sgt. Osborne clarified that it is illegal to have a vehicle in the beach parking lot from midnight to 6 am. However, people may legally park elsewhere and walk to the beach. Sarasota County Commissioner Alan Maio said he has been meeting with the director of Parks and Recreation to find the best way to handle this situation.

Guest Speaker

Todd M. Mathes

**Director of Development
Benderson Developmental Company, LLC**

Benderson Development is planning a 250,000 square foot shopping center, **Siesta Promenade**, at the northwest corner of Stickney Point and 41. This development would include a grocery, restaurants, shops, and at least one hotel. The buildings would all be single-story, except for the hotel – which would probably be four stories. Todd Mathes said that the company had not yet filed formal application. Traffic studies are still being examined. To date, all that has been done is to count cars.

Benderson Development Company hopes to break ground in the fall of 2015, planning first to complete the one-story section, and later to add the hotel, which would take approximately one year to build. They expect the entire project to be completed within three years (2018).

In the coming weeks, there will be many formal neighborhood workshops and public hearings concerning Siesta Promenade. When those are over, Benderson Developmental Company will file formal application. The procedure is: first a

draft of the application is sent to County Staff, a process which is expected to take 30-120 days. Once County Staff approves, the application will be sent to the Planning Commission. Finally, the application will be sent on to the Sarasota County Commissioners for approval.

Public Comment

An attendee asked whether a sign could be located on Stickney Point Rd., just west of 41, stating that the right lane is for right turn only. SKA will investigate.

An attendee asked what the process will be for selecting a firm to do the peer review for the Lido Beach dredging project. The process described by Laird Wreford at the previous meeting was reiterated.

An attendee asked whether better signage could be put up warning that there is no access to Casey Key from south Siesta Key. SKA will explore this issue.

An attendee requested clarification of the “No right on red” sign at Stickney Point and Midnight Pass. The “No right on red” sign comes on when a pedestrian pushes the button to cross the street. When the sign is not lit, you can turn right on red.

Yet another sign issue was raised: one of the northern most “Do not enter” signs to the north beach parking lot is missing, causing traffic problems, accidents, fights. SKA will investigate.

Old Business

Big Pass Dredging

Catherine Luckner

The Army Corps of Engineers is modifying their groin design to be smaller scale and reduced in depth and placement. They will do a public presentation of this change but it doesn't meet the standard of new Environmental Assessment or formal new plan. They have listened to us. Also, they have not submitted any proposal to Florida Department of Environmental Protection for permitting the Big Pass shoal or any other area of sand.

Lido Renourishment

Catherine Luckner

The City of Sarasota is delayed for Lido renourishment from tropical storm Debby but will start the preconstruction survey tomorrow. They will not need to stage equipment and haven't approached the County about any need. They are likely to do sand placement along shore as they go from the Sarasota Pass. They will not start until next month.

New Business

The old Siesta Key Wastewater Treatment Plant is being decommissioned in 2016. The County will be looking at possible options for the use of that site. SKA will make recommendation regarding use of this property.

A craft fair will be held in the Village on February 7th and 8th. Streets will not be blocked off, as all displays will be on the sidewalks.

Adjournment

Michael Shay adjourned the meeting. The next SKA Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5th, at 4:30 PM. The SKA Annual Brunch will be held on March 7th in place of the March meeting.

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.