

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, June 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Bob Stein called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Helen Clifford, Joyce Kouba, Catherine Luckner, Bob Miller, Bob Stein, and Joe Volpe. May minutes were approved.

Bob announced that Michael Shay and Beverly Arias have stepped down as Directors. They were acknowledged for their service during the past 4 years accompanied by a round of applause.

Attendees: 110 people were present.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Commissioner Maio reminded attendees that the County is currently in budget hearings and Comprehensive Plan update and encouraged all to be involved. He reported that FDOT is not going to create a roundabout at Beach and Midnight Pass Roads. Appreciative applause.

Sheriff's Office

Lt. Don Kennard will replace Lt. Deborah Kaspar as Administrative Supervisor for the Siesta Key service area. Lt. Kaspar has begun work in Investigations. Sgt. Jason Mruzek reported the Sheriffs have monitored the valet parking at Ophelia's and did not find any major problems but will continue to monitor. The Sheriff's are planning for increased presence during July 4th activities and will consider an electronic Board to alert visitors that fireworks that "shoot up in the air" are illegal. Access the Sheriff's office web site for useful information about activities.

An attendee stated that people were sleeping on the benches at the beach picnic tables and leaving trash.

Code Enforcement

Inquiries about building violations within the Mira Mar district have been referred to Code Enforcement and to the Sheriff's Office for investigation.

Audubon Walks

Bob Luckner reported that Audubon will offer morning walks to identify the unique beach nesting bird species. The walks will be conducted by Holly Short, Florida Audubon Beach Project Manager. Meet at Access 7 at 8:30 am on Thursday June 16 and 30.

Publicity

Joe Volpe reported that volunteers are needed for the Liberty Cleanup following July 4th. An attendee is coordinating an effort to hand out trash bags to people as they come to the beach from 9 to 12 in the morning and again in the afternoon.

SKA's pilot project to place a trash bag dispenser at beach accesses is moving forward. SKA has selected a dispenser and has funding from FWC for a pilot project at beach access 7.

GUEST SPEAKER

Todd Mathes, Director of Development, Benderson Development, LLC
Siesta Promenade Development Design

A more detailed project presentation is scheduled for June 14th from 7 to 10 pm at the Pine Shores Presbyterian Church. Todd will also be at the Church June 15th and 16th from 5 to 8 p.m. for one-on-one discussions. June 30 at 6 p.m. is the formal County public workshop. All meetings are open to the public. Following these meetings, Benderson will start the application process with the County.

The proposed project is divided into residential and retail sections. The retail space of about 140,000 sq. ft. (smaller than Paradise Plaza) will be a grocery store, small shops, and restaurants. Backing up to the Pine Shores/Glencoe residential neighborhood, the 600-unit residential space will be a mix of a 150-room hotel, condominiums, and townhouses. Maximum building height is 85 ft. After numerous traffic studies, Benderson has proposed signals on Stickney Point and US 41. DOT does not favor the signal at US 41. The retail build out will be about 1 year. Residential build out is 5 to 10 years, depending on demand. Several attendees suggested that Benderson consider making part of the property into a park. Rezoning of the property and density variance requests for the residential component will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. No date is yet set.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

Next SKA monthly meeting is Thursday, 8/4/2016 at 4:30 pm.