

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, October 6, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Sgt. Jason Mruczek reported that it has been a quiet month. Joe Volpe congratulated the Sheriff's office for their patrolling of Treasure Boat Way. An attendee reported that people frequently walk their dogs on south Turtle Beach. The Sheriff's office is aware of the problem, however, by the time a Sheriff walks the two miles to the south beach, offenders are frequently gone. When deputies see people with dogs, they first educate the owners regarding the beach regulations.

Code Enforcement

The County has a new phone app called "See, Click, Fix" which allows you to report problems to the County via cell phone. Visit the County web site to download this app.

Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce

November 4 is Sand Fest.

November 11-15 is the Crystal Classic.

GUEST SPEAKER

Alyssa Vinson, Sarasota County Environmental Protection
Sarasota County Mangrove Delegation Ordinance

The Florida State Mangrove Trimming and Protection Act was enacted because Florida has lost approximately 80% of its mangroves. Previously, the County could not enforce mangrove regulations. Sarasota County now has authority to create

its own mangrove ordinance. The ordinance, which will go into effect November 1, provides regulations for trimming mangroves and for certification of trimmers.

BOARD REPORTS

Membership

Bob Miller

SKA needs your support. Please renew your membership for 2017.

Nominating Committee

Joyce Kouba

SKA is always looking for volunteers to work on projects and to become Directors.

OLD BUSINESS

Siesta Promenade

Catherine Luckner

The upcoming **BCC** hearing is to establish the boundaries of the land being considered within designation as a critical area plan (CAP). This designation provides for additional specific studies to determine how the property should be developed. It does not automatically increase density for the project. SKA has requested traffic studies which would assess during a 'worst case' scenario. One attendee suggested that the County purchase the property to create a park. Another attendee recommended that the only way to preclude added density is to oppose the Critical Area Plan. Several attending mentioned concerns about the project due to increased traffic.

Lido Beach Renourishment

Catherine Luckner

SKA requested that County ask the City of Sarasota and USACE for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the Lido project. Additional protection was sought for South Lido Ted Sperling County Park. The County voted unanimously to support SKA request and sent a copy to the FDEP. At the present time, FDEP has stated that they have all information necessary and have asked interested reviewing parties for recommendations (pro or con) regarding any administrative or statutory inconsistencies with the Coastal Resource Zoning act of Florida.

SKA is reviewing these. FDEP must submit their response to the City of Sarasota/USACE no later than December 27, 2016.

Decommission of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Bob Luckner

The County awarded the contract to build the new pump and demolish the existing freshwater plant. The pump station should be ready to run in November of 2017. A new pipe line is being installed. The section along Midnight Pass and Shadowlawn will be initiated in the summer of 2017 to ensure the work doesn't interfere with school bus schedule stops which include Shadowlawn and Midnight Pass Road.

Beach Road Public Access

SKA provided a fact sheet from Sarasota County regarding the current status of Beach Road access (see attachment to Minutes). A resident of Beach Road stated that from his experience, the beach was totally unstable and any permanent road would not last. Another attendee stated that the County should not have "given away millions of dollars worth of property for private profit". He was concerned there is no requirement to maintain the right of way and road could quickly become unusable. Another attendee contended that the public has gained property rights. Mike Cosentino questioned the County's decision to vacate part of Beach Road. He reviewed aloud a 2012 County staff recommendation that the road be permanently repaired and returned to its prior use. He contends that the road should be retained as a public thoroughfare which allows the public options on use of the right of way. He stated, "once it is private property, the right of way can be revoked".

NEW BUSINESS

County Notification Process

Catherine Luckner

The County is developing procedures for public notification of any wastewater spills or planned discharges. This effort originated after Tropical Storm Hermine and heavy rains necessitated legal discharge of partially treated water into the Grand Canal. Residents voiced concerns to County Staff and Commissioner Maio

that notification of residents was inadequate. A complicating factor to a quick remedy was the Environmental Notification Executive Order by Gov. Scott. All municipalities and Counties of Florida will now receive FDEP guidance to be legally compliant on notification procedures.

New County Park Property

Catherine Luckner

The County is in negotiation to purchase two lots on Beach Road, adjacent to Beach Access 4, through ESL (Environmentally Sensitive Land) funds. This land would be added to the Siesta Key Public Beach park land.

Dog Park

Diane Collins is collecting signatures to petition the County to use part of the wastewater treatment plant site for a dog park.

ADJOURNMENT

Catherine Luckner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

Attachment: Sarasota County Fact Sheet Beach Road

Next SKA monthly meeting is Thursday, 11/3/2016 at 4:30 pm.