

# SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

September 3, 2015

## **WELCOME**

Michael Shay called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Beverly Arias, Joyce Kouba, Catherine Luckner, Michael Shay, Robert Stein, and Joe Volpe.

## **MINUTES**

The August minutes were approved.

## **COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

### **Sheriff's Office**

Lt. Kasper reported that the sheriff's office would not renew the lease for the Siesta Key substation when it expires September 30. A temporary substation is located in the Siesta Beach parking lot. The new substation will be included in the remodeled concession stand that will house lifeguards and sheriff's office. Deputies will have a good view, the lieutenant noted, of the beach and the parking lot.

There has been some organized crime on the mainland involving burglaries of Verizon stores and pizza shops. Also skimming machines have been found on ATMs and gas station pumps. Lt. Kasper recommended checking for loose equipment and using inside pump lanes.

### **Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement Officer, Susan Stahley, and Michael Shay have worked on illegal rentals. On some occasions, once the property owner is formally advised of rental regulations, the situation is resolved. Susan told members that she can adjust her schedule and come out after 5 p.m. if a code issue needs to be observed outside normal business hours.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

### **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT): Midnight Pass/Stickney Road Intersection Improvements**

**L.K. Nandam, District Traffic Operations Engineer,**

**Michael Kautz, Highway Safety Manager**

FDOT is proposing to change the intersection to improve pedestrian safety and operations. The plan is designed to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, while accommodating vehicle mobility, Nandam said.

After receiving input at the September 1 Siesta Key Village Association meeting where the FDOT first presented a proposal for changes at the intersection, Nandam and Kautz highlighted a revised option during the SKA meeting. FDOT originally proposed removing the acceleration lane for vehicles turning right from Stickney Point Road onto Midnight Pass Road and realigning the crosswalk on Stickney Point Road to make pedestrians more visible to drivers.

The revised proposal maintains the acceleration lane. It will tighten the radius of the turn lane, effectively encouraging drivers to take the turn more slowly. The turn lane would also incorporate a raised concrete separator to the left of the right-hand turn lane where striping is in place. In addition, the revised plan calls for the crosswalk on Stickney Point Road to be connected to the crosswalk on South Midnight Pass Road. This option will maintain the vehicle-handling capacity of the intersection, Nandam said, while providing more safety for people on foot or on bicycles. The bike lane on Stickney Point Road that now ends abruptly will be extended. The proposed changes are part of an FDOT effort to minimize pedestrian accidents at the intersection. There have been two recent accidents involving pedestrians, Nandam said. He added that the current design of the intersection is a “classic example of how not to design for pedestrians.” FDOT is partnering with law enforcement to step up enforcement at the intersection.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Big Pass Dredge Project**

Catherine Luckner reported that the Army Corp's response to the Department of Environmental Protection's request for more information about the proposal to dredge Big Pass and renourish Lido Beach was expected soon.

Luckner reminded attendees that the City of Sarasota is the entity that has requested the permit, and is working with the Army Corps on the project. Luckner said she believes alternatives can be considered before critics of the project have to resort to a lawsuit. "We have time to work it," Luckner said. "Everyone is doing their part."

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Those interested in the International Coastal cleanup September 19 should contact Michael Shay.

SKA has received many complaints regarding trash at the beach. The County does not put trash cans directly on the beach for the following reasons:

- overfilled cans attract wildlife feeding
- vehicles used to empty trash cans should not be driven on the beach
- trash cans are an impediment to nesting turtles

Attendees discussed the possibility of trash bag dispensers so beachgoers can use the bags to bring out their trash. Shay mentioned the ongoing cost of replacing bags and the possibility of working with a corporate sponsor to defray those costs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A Florida State Siesta Key beach focus group has been established and will be holding a public meeting soliciting input on best practices at the beach. Interested parties can contact Michael Shay.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

*SKA minutes reflect the column published in the Siesta Sand newspaper with additions by the association secretary.*

**Next SKA monthly meeting is Thursday, October 1 at 4:30 pm.**