

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, October 5, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Luckner called the meeting to order. Present: Joyce Kouba, Gene Kusekoski, Catherine Luckner, and Marilyn Romanus.

MINUTES

July and August minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Officer Mruczek reported that they made an arrest in the vehicle break-in cases and reminded all not to leave valuables in vehicles and to keep them locked. An attendee asked about security during the mandatory evacuation. The officers drove up and down the island reminding all that there was a mandatory evacuation. After the storm the deputies performed damage assessment.

Code Enforcement

Catherine Luckner for Susan Stahley

Susan provided a handout describing the online system to get information regarding Storm Debris Pickup for specific areas.

Chamber of Commerce

Ann Frescura

- Recently launched a program where local businesses provide promotions to those purchasing the "Shop Local" card.
- Chamber night at McCurdy's Comedy Club.
- Safe treat Halloween event on October 31 from 3 to 6, with businesses providing treats for children.
- Crystal Classic will be November 10 through 14.
- Light up the Village holiday parade coming in November.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Irma Wrapup

Ed McCrane,
Chief of Sarasota County
Emergency Operations

The new emergency operations center (EOC) proved itself in this storm. During the storm, the EOC housed all County department heads, the 911 center, the County contact center the entire town of Longboat Key leadership, and the communications team. Sarasota evacuated zone A and sheltered over 20,000 people in general population; 2000 in special needs. Sarasota sheltered people from Charlotte, Monroe, Miami Dade, Broward, Collier, and Lee counties. Charlotte County moved 150 special needs oxygen-dependent residents to Sarasota. 10 assisted-living facilities had to be evacuated to Sarasota. First responders were out by 1:30 in the morning. Sarasota Memorial took in patients from other hospitals. Sarasota sent SCAT busses to Englewood for comfort stations. Storm debris trucks went to areas paying highest dollar for collection. The County is obtaining replacement trucks. An attendee was disappointed with Code Red notifications. Siesta Key was closed until utilities were back up. Access was not blocked to islands because there was no damage. Irma generated as much vegetative debris as Sarasota County would collect in 2-1/2 years.

Turtle Beach Campground Improvements

Kyle Carson,
Turtle Beach Campground Manager

Kyle provided an update of the Turtle Beach Campground improvements. All utilities will be consolidated and moved underground. Water and sewer lines are being replaced. Wi-fi and cable television will be added. The bath house will be modernized. Hurricane Irma delayed the reopening until November 1.

Siesta Key: Beaches, parks and Water Access

Shawn Yeager,
Division Manger Beaches & Water
Access Parks and Natural Resources

Shawn provided a handout with information about all County beach accesses. Siesta Key has approximately 189 acres of waterfront access. Turtle Beach improvements include a kayak launch, added parking, and a shower. Why were trash containers moved off the beach? It is unsafe to collect trash where people are using the beach. Trash cans on the beach become food for

seagulls. SKA helped sponsor Christopher Wheeler pocket park where the original Stickney Point Bridge was located.

Board Reports

Lido/Big Pass Dredge

Catherine Luckner

Since announcing the Friends of Siesta Key Matching Fund in July, Siesta Key Environmental Defense Fund (SKEDF) received sufficient donations to qualify for the matching \$10,000 donation. THANKS to everyone who responded to our call out and many who shared a second time. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection administrative hearing is scheduled to begin December 6 and continue for 7 days. Additional people have been added to the witness list, which adds legal expenses for the hearing. To help SKA with additional legal expenses, go to: <http://www.SKEDF.org>.

Unified Development Code (UDC)

Joyce Kouba

Information about public workshops for October and November is on the County web site. The purpose of the UDC initiative is to reorganize and clarify the Zoning and land development regulations. SKA is monitoring the project to ensure that SKOD standards are maintained.

Siesta Key Wastewater Treatment Plant

Bob Luckner

Stormy weather delayed progress approximately three weeks. Schedule impacts are being evaluated. Work added to the original scope may add additional time to the contract. The work is pending receipt of a proposal and subsequent review. The pump station is approximately 80% complete. The overall project is approximately 70% complete.

The Shadow Lawn Way lane closure could last another two weeks. Hopefully the contractor will complete the pipe connections at Shadow Lawn Way/Midnight Pass Rd by the end of next week. There is no apparent damage to the median. If there is any damage attributed to construction, the contractor will restore to original condition. No problems at the school bus stop on Midnight Pass at Shadow Lawn Way were reported.

A few more weeks of installation, testing and restoration remain for the open cut pipe installation. Paving could start in 4 to 5 weeks. There have

been minor issues for the open-cut portion. Production is slow due to water table and keeping one lane open for traffic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beach Access 10

Victoria Ochoa

Victoria is concerned about the proposed development adjacent to Beach Access 10. She believes that important marshes will be lost and wonders what will happen to the access when it provides vehicular access to the residential property. She urged all to contact the County Commissioners regarding this project.

ADJOURNMENT

Catherine adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

Next SKA monthly meeting is November 2, 2017 at 4:30 pm.