

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, January 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Luckner called the meeting to order. Present: Joyce Kouba, Gene Kusekoski, Catherine Luckner, Dan Lundy, Bob Miller, Marilyn Romanus, and Joe Volpe.

MINUTES

Joyce Kouba

December minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Sgt. Mruczek reported that there were no problems during the recent Christmas pub crawl and Siesta Seafood Festival. The Sheriff's office is preparing for spring break and developing an informational brochure including beach rules and tips for avoiding thefts from cars.

An attendee asked for clarification about people camping and parking at Beach Rd and Avenida Messina. Sgt. Mruczek stated that it is not illegal to camp and park on private property. The "beach" in that area is actually private plotted lots even though people use it as public beach. Catherine Luckner stated that Code Enforcement informed her that the flag pole and porta-potty were to be removed. Any concerns should be reported to the Sheriff's office so that they can determine whether there is any illegal activity.

GUEST SPEAKER

Make Siesta Drive Safe (MSDS)

Pat Wulf, President

Bay Island Siesta Association

The Bay Island Siesta Association has had ongoing discussions with the City of Sarasota, Sarasota County, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in an effort to find ways to make Siesta Drive safer. The area of concern is a 1.9 mile stretch of Siesta Drive on the island, including the 90 degree turn from Siesta Drive onto Higel Avenue. In 10

years, 180 crashes have been reported with 73 injuries and 10 fatalities. Potentially, 50% of crashes are not reported. MSDS has requested: reduced speed, some redesign of the curve, and pedestrian crosswalks. MSDS requested SKA's support in their endeavors.

FDOT completed a speed study and the pedestrian count necessary for the crosswalks. Any solution from FDOT must have wide community support and, because this is an evacuation route, not stop traffic. FDOT has reduced the speed on the curve. However, placing of speed signs was not optimal, so they are being moved. Curbing along the corridor sidewalk has been discussed. An attendee suggested that curbing would make left turns more dangerous. Other recommended safety items are better sign placement and right turn only signs for some side streets entering Siesta. Action on crosswalks will be delayed until the study of barrier island pedestrian issues is completed in March.

Attendee suggestions included signs being hung across the road rather than at the side of the road, speed cameras, accessing traffic data stored in the radar sign memory, and working with Sarasota Commissioners on the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Anyone interested in helping to make Siesta Drive safer can write to the Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota City and FDOT to ask them to approve MSDS' requests.

BOARD REPORTS

Membership

Catherine Luckner for Bob Miller

SKA needs your support, please join or renew your membership.

Lido/Big Pass Dredge

Catherine Luckner

The Administrative Appeal hearing was held December 12-18, 2017. Catherine believes that SKA presented a strong case. SKA demonstrated the modeling done by the US Army Core of Engineers (USACE) was not adequate to find "no significant impact." Many of the numbers supplied by the USACE were grossly erroneous. The next step is that the certified transcript of the hearing will be made available. Then, the attorneys will file

briefs and a proposal as to what the judge might decide. A decision may take as long as March. If the judge decides to approve the permit, SKA will ask the civil court to impose the immediate injunction which it promised in the January hearing. SKA needs your financial support to pay for these legal expenses. For a tax-deductible donation, donate to SKEDF.org.

SKOD Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Joe Volpe

An amendment to the Siesta Key Overlay District (SKOD) has been proposed to reduce the minimum street setbacks for commercial buildings over 35 ft. through a Special Exception process. Currently, zoning regulations require a 25-foot setback or half the building height for buildings over 35 feet. This could potentially open approval of buildings up to 85 feet to be placed only 2 feet from the sidewalk on commercially zoned properties. A public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners will be held on January 30. SKA urges interested parties to express their concerns via email to the County Commissioners before January 23, and to attend the public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Bob Luckner

Bob reported that:

- The plant is 85% mechanically complete.
- All off-site forced main is complete. A few plant site connections will be completed this month, including a night time tie-in for the north end towards the end of the month.
- The pump station is scheduled to be tested at the end of January.
- The south side tie-in was made and tested, but is not permanently in service. The current schedule is to have the Master Pump Station tested and partially in service by January 31st.
- There are a few minor items to complete in the right of way.
- The outfall to the Grand Canal will be eliminated by the established FDEP permit date.

Siesta Promenade

Gene Kusekoski

Benderson had resubmitted a plan for a large development and while no meetings or hearings are scheduled, the project is moving forward again.

ADJOURNMENT

Catherine adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba

Secretary, Siesta Key Association

Next SKA monthly meeting is February 1, 2018 at 4:30 pm.