

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, May 3, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Gene Kusekoski called the meeting to order. Present: Joyce Kouba, Erin Kreis, Gene Kusekoski, Catherine Luckner, and Joe Volpe.

MINUTES

Joyce Kouba

April minutes were approved.

NEW DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

Gene Kusekoski

Gene introduced a new Board member, Erin Kreis.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Following the April meeting, Dave Thomas spoke with the FWC regarding signage on the Grand Canal. Sgt. Mruczek said that a trail camera was being installed to allow videos of speeding boats. There has been focused parking enforcement at Beach Access 1. Complaints at Beach Access 2 have slowed down. Memorial Day weekend is one of the busiest at the beach. A sign at Stickney Point will warn of traffic delays. When the beach parking lot is full during the holiday weekend, it may be closed intermittently.

Items Sgt. Mruczek will research:

- Is it legal to pass the trolley
- Parking regulations for the middle lane of Midnight Pass
- What can be done to alleviate safety problems caused by valet parking in the Village

Sgt. Mruczek will report that the "No wake signs" at Bayou Louise and Bayou Hansen entrances are missing. Catherine thanked the Sheriff's Department for recent monitoring of the of Higel/Ocean intersection.

Shore Bird Nesting

Catherine Luckner

Kylie Wilson, the new Audubon steward for shore nesting birds, is monitoring nest activity. Areas of active nests will be roped off and posted no entry. If interested in helping, contact SKA for contact info.

Turtle Nesting

Gene Kusekoski

Turtle nesting season has begun. A brochure regarding turtle nesting was provided.

Memorial Day Cleanup

Joyce Kouba

SKA will coordinate with County Parks on Memorial Day trash collection plans. Anyone wishing to help with beach cleanup please contact SKA for further info.

Hurricane Season Update

Rich Collins, Director and Ed McCrane, Chief

Sarasota County Emergency Services

As an example of the extent of emergency services provided, Rich reported that 20,000 residents and 3000 pets were sheltered during Hurricane Irma. Three medically dependent shelters were open. 2 years worth of vegetative waste was collected. Because this was the first time the County had implemented hurricane preparation plans up to the point of expected impact, Emergency Management brought in a team to evaluate the County's hurricane response. Recommendations from this report generated several new procedures for the upcoming hurricane season.

Ed McCrane reported that to reduce confusion, evacuation will be ordered by Hurricane Levels with a description of what residences are included in that level. (Evacuation will not be designated “Voluntary” or “Mandatory.”) Once 45 mph winds are reached, emergency vehicles cannot be dispatched. Ed urged everyone to sign up for “Code Red” notifications from the County to receive hurricane notifications. Transportation rally points have been established where people can board a bus to an evacuation center. The rally point for Siesta Key is Siesta Public Beach. All evacuation centers will be opened at the same time and will be pet friendly. Due to changes, the Hurricane Preparedness Guide has not been released. Once available, SKA will have Guides for distribution. The Guide will be available online and at libraries. Returning to the island: Code Red, emergency responders; Code Yellow, residents only; Code Green, anyone;. Refer to the County web site, <http://www.scgov.net>, Emergency Services for full information.

BOARD REPORTS

SKOD Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Gene Kusekoski

The SKOD zoning ordinance amendment passed by a 3 to 2 vote. SKA will closely monitor any proposed project requesting a special exception under this amendment.

Lido/Big Pass Dredge

Catherine Luckner

SKA expects a recommendation from the judge before end of May. SKA can respond to the Judge’s recommendation. The final decision is with the Secretary of the FDEP. SKEDF did not qualify for the Giving Challenge, so we have our own “Giving Challenge” with funds matched up to \$10,000. SKA needs your financial support to pay for these legal expenses.

Membership and Fundraising

Gene Kusekoski

SKA needs your support to continue the Big Pass litigation and to advocate with the County to preserve Siesta Key. Please join or renew your membership, get your friends to join, and donate what you can to SKEDF

Promenade Development

Gene Kusekoski

Benderson submitted documents, including a traffic survey, to address the insufficiencies identified by County staff. FDOT has responded with comments and questions. The project will possibly be before the County Commission in January 2019.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Gene recognized Bob Luckner for his extensive efforts on the Wastewater Treatment Plant decommissioning. As of April 10, the wastewater treatment plant was shut down. The plant will be demolished next year.

NEW BUSINESS

SKA is working with a condo association on south Midnight Pass to get a crosswalk installed.

SKA is communicating with FDOT to get the existing crosswalks on Midnight Pass Road coordinated.

OLD BUSINESS

In an effort to help alleviate traffic backup, Joe Volpe is working to improve bridge openings.

Joe is also coordinating with code enforcement on illegal rentals.

ADJOURNMENT - Gene adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba, Secretary

Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

Next SKA monthly meeting is June 7, 2018 at 4:30 pm.
LED Streetlight Upgrades – Lisa Cece and FPL