

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, June 7, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Joyce Kouba

May minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Sgt. Mruczek had no problems to report. Preparation for 4th of July is underway. A sign on US 41 will caution to expect heavy traffic. In response to a question about what to do if you see an erratic driver on I-75, he recommended calling either *HP or 911 and report the license number.

Shore Bird Nesting

Kylie Wilson

Kylie Wilson, the new Sarasota Audubon steward for shore nesting birds, reported that only 5 Snowy Plover nests have survived on Siesta. Nests have only lasted about a week before destruction by crows. Trash receptacles are a major draw for crows. Volunteers are needed to help check nests. Parking for volunteers is also needed. If interested in helping, contact SKA or Kylie. In response to a question regarding caging of nests to inhibit crows, Kylie stated that the crows investigating the cage will cause the adults to abandon the nest. Nesting areas can only be roped off once eggs exist. Kylie will have a beach bird walk at 8 a.m. Saturday June 16.

LED Lighting for Siesta Key

Lisa Cece, Sarasota Special District Coordinator

Madonna Reikken and Erik Culling, FPL Regional Managers

The County portion of Siesta Key has its own lighting district. It includes 325 street lights, maintained by Florida Power and Light (FPL.) The 296 metered lights will be converted to LED on Siesta Key beginning late July. Street lights communicate with the power grid and will auto-generate trouble tickets, resulting in reduced time to repair lights. Benefits of the new lights include more natural color, reduced light pollution, energy savings, and longer life. Village lights are not included in the conversion because they are County lights and are a decorative fixture. Fixtures can be tilted or shielded to be turtle friendly.

BOARD REPORTS

Lido/Big Pass Dredge

Catherine Luckner

The administrative judge identified two modifications for Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to approve the dredging permit request: 1) two areas to be exempted from dredging during spotted sea trout spawning season, and 2) reducing sand removal to 1.3 million cubic yards. SKA submitted an exception to the judge's recommendation, requesting that the two identified areas be totally removed from dredging because once they are dredged, the spawning habitat will be destroyed. A decision should be reached late June. If FDEP issues the permit, SKA still has legal recourse through a verified complaint that the project does not comply with the County Comprehensive Plan.

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. Florida Department of

Transportation (FDOT) responded with comments and questions. The County/FDOT road swap will affect this project. SKA will work with the County Commission to try to ensure that the County addresses the issues raised by FDOT.

NEW BUSINESS

Bike Safety

Gene Kusekoski

Gene is preparing a presentation to the County regarding biking hazards on Siesta Key. Issues may possibly be able to be addressed in conjunction with the road resurface in 2020.

July 4th Cleanup

Joyce Kouba

SKA will coordinate with County Parks on July 4 trash collection plans. Anyone wishing to help with beach cleanup please contact SKA for further info.

OLD BUSINESS

- Turtle nesting season continues. Brochures regarding turtle nesting are available.
- The County has agreed to install a crosswalk at the Bay Tree condo on south Midnight Pass after three long years of effort.
- SKA is communicating with the County and State to get the existing crosswalks on Midnight Pass Road synchronized.

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 August 2, 2018 at 4:30 pm.