

# **SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**Thursday, August 2, 2018**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Catherine Luckner called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.  
Present: Joe Volpe, Erin Kreis, and Catherine Luckner.

## **MINUTES**

Catherine Luckner

Due to no quorum present, the June Minutes will be approved at the September meeting. There was no meeting in July.

## **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

### **Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

Sgt. Jason Mruczek reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday went well. In late June/early July there were several burglaries from vehicles. He advised everyone to lock their vehicles. A question was asked regarding the recent Frontier box that was hit by a truck. He had no details but would see if he could find out what happened. It was mentioned that a car burglary on Commonwealth was caught on video. A member present indicated that there are several trucks which are lit up on the bottom that travel the Key and pull donuts at the Pier and between Beach Access 2 & 3. Sgt. Mruczek said that the Department would watch for these trucks.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

### **Solar United Neighbors**

Lynn Nilssen

Lynn Nilssen was present to provide information on residential solar power. Solar United Neighbors was founded as a non-profit in 2003. The organization provides technical assistance for the installation of roof-top solar power generation units on residential homes. Solar power is 100% renewable. The cost is less expensive than coal, natural gas or oil. The City of Sarasota city operations will go solar by 2030. Solar power reduces the demand for more power plants and reduces greenhouse gases. It

provides for carbon offsets and is cost effective as its use does not rely on the grid. Due to population growth in Florida, there is a greater need to be energy independent. Solar would keep the energy created here in the State as it would reduce the need for outsourcing of energy. The estimated return on investment (ROI) to a homeowner whom installs solar is 14% on average. Pay-back takes approximately 5 to 10 years, and there is a Federal income tax credit. Homeowner Associations cannot prevent the installation of solar. The solar co-op group on Sarasota County provides buying power for the solar equipment. Lynn provided brochures.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **Zoning – Illegal Rentals Update**

Joe Volpe

Joe indicated that Susan Stahley of Sarasota County Ordinance Division is overwhelmed with the illegal rental issue. Daily or weekly rentals cannot be advertised, only monthly can, yet these types of rentals are still being advertised on-line. There are serious garbage issues with these rentals. Susan needs assistance in tracking the street addresses with the on-line advertisements.

### **Big Pass/Lido Status**

Catherine Luckner

The Exceptions SKA filed were declined. SKA asked for removal of 1200' of Cut 'C' and removal of the fish spawning area within Cut 'B' *permanently* v. only April through September. It seems like this issue has become about more than sand as we know there's little sand available in those areas. SKA Verified Complaint was filed 3/2/17 under State Statute (403.412FS) governing environmental impact projects. Our Court hearing was held 7/23/18 with good support from several Members attending. The Judge gave SKA two weeks to provide additional response to City of Sarasota, who filed to dismiss SKA Verified Complaint. It appears that the City is suggesting the County to enter the Verified Complaint as an "indispensable party". A Verified Complaint does not require any Fact Witnesses as it's a 'Statutory' Review by a Judge. The City will have 10 days to respond. SKA feels strongly we have merit and will have our Verified Complaint heard. We want the County to uphold and implement its Comprehensive Plan.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

GBSL Questions

Catherine Luckner

The GBSL has not been modified and is still in effect. Some residents were concerned about a Sanderling/ Heron Lagoon residence that was given 100% GBSL variance. BCC **did** follow Environmental concerns in allowing this property to be situated forward of the GBSL. The SABA property has not been reviewed as yet. On that property there is no existing structure or footprint. SKA will advocate for the GBSL to be fully upheld based on Environmental Regulations and County Ordinance.

There are five potential Charter amendments for County voters. We encourage everyone to be well informed. There is a special Public Hearing on these scheduled for August 29, 2018 at the County Commission. We suggest you attend if possible.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

United Development Code  
– Setback Changes

Catherine Luckner

The proposed UDC would reduce side yard setbacks for single family homes. SKA will request that setbacks remain unchanged in the Siesta Key Overlay District. Subsequent to the meeting, it was noted that the proposed UDC will go to the Planning Commission August 30. Final acceptance and publication of the adopted UDC is slated for October 31.

## **DISCUSSION**

Catherine indicated that the rumors that SKA is FOR development are not true. If you hear such comments, put them to rest as false. Please call us at 941-346-4880 if you have any questions.

A question was raised about how individuals can give personal comments about Big Pass/Lido Key to the proper City and County authorities. Erin Kreis suggested that perhaps letters could be drafted and put on the SKA website. A letter for those who live in the City as well as County and one for those in unincorporated County could then be sent to the proper officials. That way the letters would contain accurate facts and figures as the project applies to them.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Catherine adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Kreis  
(for Joyce Kouba, Secretary)  
Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

**Next SKA monthly meeting is September 6, 2018 at 4:30 pm.**