

# **SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**Thursday, September 6, 2018**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **MINUTES**

Catherine Luckner

June and August minutes were approved.

## **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

### **Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. Jason Mruczek

A person on Higel reported suspicious people in her carport. When the Sheriff's deputies arrived, the people fled in a stolen car. They crashed into the wall at the 90 degree curve at the north end of the island. Three people were arrested.

**CONA** is having a candidate forum on Monday, September 10 at the Sarasota Garden Club.

**The Sarasota Development Council** will have a discussion on September 17 at 4 p.m. at 1660 Ringling Blvd. regarding future use of tourist development tax dollars to repair Ed Smith Stadium.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Dr. Tracy Fanara**  
Program Manager, Environmental Engineer  
Mote Marine Laboratory

**Red Tide**

Red tide is naturally occurring algae, called *Karenia brevis*, which contains a toxin that can aerosolize, attach to salt particles, move onto shore, and cause respiratory problems and fatalities to wildlife. Red tide initiates 10 to 40 miles off shore on the floor of the Gulf. Cells rise to the surface and are brought inward via currents and wind. If sufficient nutrients are available, the bloom can intensify. These algae can use 12 types of nutrients, which is why a bloom can initiate at the ocean bottom. *Karenia brevis* would be here whether man was here or not. However, the question is whether man's activities are intensifying the blooms. Mote has several research projects involving red tide.

The Beach Conditions Report can be accessed by the public for information regarding beach conditions, including red tide presence.

Mote is developing a cell phone microscope which can be used to upload a 30-second video of a water sample for analysis.

The Citizens Science Information Collaboration (CSIC) app can be downloaded to report red tide and other water related issues.

Reducing red tide blooms is a complex problem. Many variables affect the blooms including storms, nutrients, sand, water temperature, and salinity.

Questions from the audience:

**What are the potential effects of phosphate mining on red tide?** Red tide research focuses on nitrogen because nitrogen is the limiting factor in ocean waters. Nitrogen comes from naturally decaying plants and animals and from fertilizer. Phosphorus has more impact on green algae blooms. Excess phosphorus can cause cyanobacteria blooms. Some correlation has been found between green algae blooms from rivers and duration of red tide blooms.

**How does red tide kill marine life?** It basically suffocates fish. Manatee and dolphins die from eating grass and fish that have accumulated toxins.

**What can be done to reduce algae blooms?** Individuals can help by changing the way they treat water, such as using downspouts and cisterns and allowing water to be filtered naturally, using swales to treat water

before it goes into the storm water drain, and forgoing green lawns with high fertilizer requirements.

Research is ongoing as to what precipitates a red tide bloom. We don't know what would happen if we eliminate red tide. After red tide blooms, shrimp and clams grow rapidly. Clams and oysters remove toxins from the water. During low red tide blooms, funding is scarce. When there is a significant red tide bloom, funding for red tide research increases.

**Would SKA work with Key homeowner associations to encourage individuals to start using more environmentally friendly landscape practices?**

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **Zoning – UDC**

Joyce Kouba

The Planning Commission agreed with SKA that reducing the side –yard setbacks in RSF zoned districts was beyond the scope of the UDC project. Side yard setbacks will remain unchanged.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Siesta Promenade**

Joe Volpe

Benderson is looking for 20 units per acre versus 13 allowed by code. A Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for November 15 and a County Commission meeting on December 12.

### **Illegal Rentals**

Joe Volpe

Susan Stahley is working on many cases. Several owners have come into compliance regarding advertising for no less than 30-day rentals. Longboat Key has modified its rental regulations so that code enforcement can ticket offenders at the time of discovery. In Sarasota, offenders are taken to court, where a fine may be imposed. An attendee asked what can be done about the rentals on Beach Road.

## **Big Pass**

Catherine Luckner

SKA has not received any ruling from the judge regarding our Verified Complaint. We are making plans for presenting our case before the County. If you can help, please send donations to help pay the legal bills for this complaint.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Blind Pass Beach Volunteer Opportunity**

Erin Kreis

The County is restoring 350 feet of dune line at Blind Pass Beach, 7770 Manasota Key. They will be planting 650 plants on Friday, September 14 from 7:30 to 11:00. Further information is available at the County Parks and Recreation web page.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Catherine adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba, Secretary  
Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

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