

# **SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Gene Kusekoski called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

Present: Gene Kusekoski, Catherine Luckner, Bob Miller, Marilyn Romanus, Dan Lundy and Erin Kreis

## **MINUTES**

Erin Kreis

After asking for any changes, deletions or additions to the Minutes for the September and October meeting minutes, a motion was made by Marilyn Romanus, seconded by Bob Miller, to approve the Minutes of the September 6, 2018 meeting. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Marilyn Romanus, seconded by Bob Miller, to approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2018 meeting. Motion passed.

## **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

### **Sheriff's Office**

Dep. McGregor

Dep. Chris McGregor reported that the recent red tide event, along with the normal slow time of the year, reduced traffic and other activity on Siesta Key. The upcoming Crystal Classic should bring crowds to the Key.

Sgt. Jason Mruczek has been promoted to Lieutenant and has been reassigned. His position on Siesta Key has been filled by Sgt. Paul Cernansky and Lt. John Varley. They are both very excited to be on Siesta Key. Their goal is prevention of crime. Contact them whenever needed.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

### **Sarasota County Natural Resources Staff**

The Guest Speaker was unable to attend. Gene Kusekoski asked Catherine Luckner to discuss some of the environmental issues being reviewed within the County. Catherine stated the good news is, most environmental staff she tried to reach, were busy in the field, working on the red tide issue. With red tide a serious concern, BCC requested Staff review all work and ordinance related to this issue. Catherine continued by referencing County Fertilizer Ordinance which was reviewed by Staff. The Sarasota County fertilizer regulation was the second one developed in the state. County policy is more restrictive than one in place by the State of Florida. Storm water issues are also being reviewed by County Staff. Catherine will place the recent overview of County work on the SKA website.

Catherine commented on collaboration between the barrier island residents called 'The Barrier Island League (BIL)'. This organization is made up of four unincorporated barrier islands: Manasota Key, North Manasota Key, Casey Key and Siesta Key who collaborate, as needed, on common concerns. The last issue was to develop a post-disaster redevelopment plan for County adoption, which is required by the State. Currently the BIL has been working for the past 3 months to assess red tide impacts, methods and means to identify areas to improve on an individual, community and local governance level. Recent research and goals will be presented soon. Lido Key and Longboat Key will be asked to join. Information will be posted on the SKA website.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **Membership**

Gene Kusekoski

It is important that our members renew their membership. Gene mentioned that if you renew by the end of the year, you can renew at the current rate of \$30.00; after that the rate goes up to \$35.00. We need to increase our

membership in order to continue the work that we do. Gene also mentioned that we need new board members. We especially need someone who is tech savvy. Being a board member does require some time and effort. There is an Application on the SKA website if you are interested in becoming a board member.

Catherine mentioned that November 12 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Siesta Key Association. She discussed the enabling act that the SKA was instrumental in obtaining which allows Siesta Key to have its own zoning code. Catherine gave a brief history of SKA and its accomplishments.

Dan Lundy expressed that SKA is an extraordinary organization and an effective advocate to improve life on the Key with a focus to improve public policy. The organization needs strength and talent to continue to help Siesta Key prosper and to protect your interests.

### **Siesta Promenade**

Gene Kusekoski

There is a public hearing on the Benderson proposal for this property on November 15. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the County Commission, which has the ultimate say as to what happens with this property. We will put together a letter for the Planning Commission and the County Commission which discusses the SKA position on this matter, specifically with respect to the boundary of the proposed project. We encourage our membership to attend the meeting on November 15, or write letters. Make your voice heard. On November 11, there will be a demonstration, with press present, at the corner of US 41 and Stickney Point Road.

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

Catherine Luckner

Bob Luckner gave an update in the Big Pass dredging project. Regarding the suit against the City, on October 12 the 12th Circuit Court Judge entered a decision, without prejudice, stating that no remedy exists to implement the County Comprehensive Plan regarding the City plans to

dredge in Big Pass. SKA filed an Amended Complaint against the City asking they enforce their own comprehensive plan that says it will comply with the County's comprehensive plan. The Judge indicated that the comprehensive plans of the City and County are not legal law. SKA has been given an alternative by the judicial comments and we will modify our Complaint. We still need donations for our legal bills. Please consider donation of at least \$40 when you renew your Membership before the New Year.

### **Gulf Beach Setback Line**

Catherine Luckner

There is ongoing effort by an Applicant to submit a petition for development 100% beyond the Gulf Beach Setback Line at Beach Access #10. SKA advocates and supports adherence to the GBSL. In areas that are not 'grandfathered' in by an existing structure, there should be no coastal construction beyond the GBSL. There's often consideration for those who have existing property seaward of the GBSL. The GBSL was adopted in 1979.

### **Illegal Rentals**

Erin Kreis

In Joe Volpe's absence, Erin gave a short report on illegal rentals. Joe continues to work on the problem of illegal rentals in residential neighborhoods. The County is currently working to modify the ordinance. County administration will present their work on amending the requirements for rentals that occur and focus on our RSF neighborhoods at the next SKA meeting on December 6.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **DISCUSSION**

A member indicated that the pedestrian crossing light located near Midnight Cove II is not working. Gene will contact FPL.

A member indicated that Mike Cosentino's Charter Amendments have passed.

Questions were raised about the future of the Bank of America building on Stickney Point Road.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pres. Gene Kusekoski adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Kreis

(For Joyce Kouba, Secretary)

Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

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