

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, February 7, 2019

CALL

Present: Joyce Kouba, Erin Kreis, Gene Kusekoski, Dan Lundy, Catherine Luckner, Marilyn Romanus, and Joe Volpe

SKA BREAKFAST

Gene Kusekoski

SKA annual breakfast is March 2 at 8:30 at St Boniface Episcopal Church. Members are entitled to 2 tickets to the breakfast, however, seating is limited. Advance reservations are required; first come, first serve.

MINUTES

Joyce Kouba

The January minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Cernansky

January was a quiet month preparing for spring break. Sgt. Cernansky introduced Steve Brown. WCIND initiated the removal of the beached boat on Siesta. The numbers: 2 auto thefts, 2 residential burglaries, 2 vehicle burglaries, 2 grand thefts, 2 petty thefts, 1 robbery. Hopefully these good numbers are a result of proactive work to prevent crimes. Sgt. Cernansky reported that the Sip & Cycle is classified as a commercial megacycle and is not subject to regulations. Open containers are allowed. Sgt. Cernansky said more attention will be focused on speeding on Sandy Nook.

Attendees reported the following:

- Flashing lights at Out of Door are obscured by the vegetation.
- Flashing lights have been added to the far south crosswalk thanks to SKA and the Sheriff's Department. Catherine reported that Brad Johnson, County Assistant Administrator, immediately initiated installation of the lights following the January SKA meeting.
- The trolley does not pull next to the sidewalk and stops approximately every 100 feet, slowing traffic tremendously.

Siesta Traffic Workshop

Gene Kusekoski

The County will hold a public workshop on Siesta Key traffic and parking on February 27 at 9 am in the County Commission chambers. Take the opportunity to provide input on this issue and hopefully a whole access management plan for Siesta Key. Input can be submitted through the scgov.net web site.

GUEST SPEAKER

Nicole Rissler

Sarasota County Director of Parks, Recreation
and Natural Resources

The County Commission is interested in paid parking, additional parking, traffic issues, and expansion of the trolley on Siesta Key. A workshop is scheduled for February 27th. The trolley had 70,000 riders in January.

Larry Mau reported that a traffic study of Siesta Key, similar to the recent north barrier islands study, is scheduled to start later this year. Also, a bike and ped plan study will start soon and continue for a year. Some bike lane and sidewalk improvements on Stickney Point Road are scheduled within the next two years. Parking and traffic concerns can be addressed to the County Traffic Advisory Council. Recently, bollards were installed at the end of Avenida Messina to inhibit driving on the beach. Regarding improvements to the sidewalks and bike paths on Midnight Pass from Stickney Point to Beach Road, the County is trying to get FDOT to make some improvements prior to the upcoming road swap. After the swap, the County will review what it can do. An attendee asked about the County blocking access to property at the end of Avenida Messina. If a person has property in the area, the County will provide access. After the road swap, the County will have authority over traffic signals at Midnight Pass and Stickney Point. Please provide input regarding Siesta Key traffic and parking to the County prior to February 17th so that it can be provided for the February workshop. The workshop will be for public input. Staff will not be making recommendations and there is no anticipation of Commission action. Nicole will research whether restroom facilities at beach access 7 can be open to the public. Gene encouraged people to submit their ideas through the online web site.

BOARD REPORTS

Membership

Gene Kusekoski

Please renew your membership for 2019, and ask friends to join. If people haven't renewed for a reason, please let us know why.

Big Pass/Lido Status

Catherine Luckner

The City of Sarasota has asked to have SKA's case dismissed. On December 20th SKA requested a Writ of Mandamus, asking that the City go to the County to see whether their plans are consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. SKA awaits the judge's decision to either dismiss our case or to require the City to go to the County to ask for permission based on County ordinances.

Siesta Promenade Challenge

Dan Lundy

A brief was filed requesting that the December 12th County Commission decision to approve the Siesta Promenade project be remanded for further consideration. Due process was a major issue in the brief. Jim Wallace read the mission statement of the legal challenge. Funds will be put in an attorney trust and unused funds will be refunded proportionately. The County has until the end of March to respond to the brief. Then 30 to 60 days is afforded to respond to the response. No court action is anticipated until July or September. Much of the legal work is being done pro bono. Dan explained that SKA is considering filing a Friend of the Court brief stating that SKA feels that the court should rule that the decision should be remanded for further consideration. He asked whether anyone objected to the brief. There were no objections. A motion was made that SKA file an Amicus Brief in support of the lawsuit. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

An attendee commented that of all the issues that have threatened Siesta Key's quality of life, the Big Pass dredge and the Siesta Promenade have

the potential of having the most detrimental impact on the Key. He urged everyone to financially support the legal expenses to fight these battles.

ADJOURNMENT

Gene adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Next SKA monthly meeting is April 4, 2019 at 4:30 pm.