

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday May 2, 2019

COMMUNITY WELCOME/GUEST SIGN-IN

Directors

CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Luckner

Present: Catherine Luckner, Joyce Kouba, Erin Kreis, Dan Lundy, Marilyn Romanus, Joe Volpe, Jean Cannon, Ronald Clark, Elizabeth Gomez-Mayo, Tom Surprise, and Eddie Ward

MINUTES APPROVED

The April 4 SKA minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Paul Cernansky

The attendees congratulated Sgt. Cernansky on his promotion and move to another post. Sgt. Cernansky provided April crime report. There were eight (8) Part 1 Crimes, two auto thefts (there is a suspect in one robbery) and there were six grand theft cases involving bicycles. In the bike thefts, there is a suspect. So in all our Level 1 crimes we are on our way to solving them. I am pretty sure we will be able to come up with a suspect on those remaining as we have leads and some names.

Audience discussion:

- An attendee reported that someone took over their home telephone number and in the process created fake accounts and assumed their identity. She recommended that everyone put a freeze on their phone number with their phone and mobile companies. Sgt. Cernansky stated that this scam is at least 15 years old and mentioned that phone and mobile companies sometimes offer insurance for this. The women responded she that she had never heard about this scam and her phone company would provide a number freeze service for free.
- Quick question on Bike theft from a new owner. How were they taken? Response: No information on if they were locked or unlock but all were taken at night, and I assume they were unlocked.
- Question Graffiti on the fence: Do local cameras help with a crime? The answer is yes, local cameras do help on crimes. Chief McCrane recommended the ring doorbell for security.
- Question on solicitation. Two women knocked on a resident's door and asked if she was interested in bible studies. She turned them away and wanted to know if there are ordinances on solicitation? Need a permit from the county to solicit for money. Otherwise, it may be legal. If in doubt, call the Sheriff's office.
- Question on a recumbent bike, should he have a flag on the bike as it is difficult to see. Response: Not required.
- Crime Stats monthly to monthly: Summary by Sgt. Cernansky stated that SKA residents are in a good place. Our crime rates are low, we use intelligence to target specific areas, and our goal is to prevent crimes. Question (from Catherine) can we see some local statistics? Sgt. Cernansky stated he would provide the information for Siesta Key next month.
- Question road signs Midnight Pass that says slow-moving vehicles are prohibited; I consider those three-wheeled motor or golf carts slow-moving. Sgt. Cernansky will look into this.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chief Ed McCrane, Director Emergency Management Sarasota County Hurricane Preparedness

Chief Ed McCrane presented the SKA audience a review of the Sarasota County's storm preparation and recovery plans. He also provided copies of the current Sarasota County Disaster and Hurricane Guide for everyone. The Guide has been updated and reading it will help you prepare for a hurricane.

Ed stated he has a talented, experienced team that has taken years to build. He and his team coordinate all the activities from the other county departments and agency that occur during an emergency. They are now in a new building that is up and running and are no longer close to the Bay. The building is currently located five miles from the Bay and was built to stand up to an EF 4 tornado. The new building when staffed will be set up with the resources to support a disaster such as a hurricane. The hurricane season starts June 1. While this season is expected to be a low storm season, it only takes one

storm to make a difference. Remember last year's Hurricane Michael, it grew from a Cat 1 to Cat 3 in 12 hours and hit landfall in 72 hours as a Cat 5 Hurricane.

Siesta Key is Barrier Island is located in the red zone, and it is designated Level A for evacuation. One of the biggest threats living on Siesta is the danger of the storm tide (storm surge). For hurricane Irma, we expected 6 to 10 feet of storm tide, but we were lucky, if you remember the water left the Bay and then came the other way, slowly, as the storm moved east. Ed shared images of what happens to areas hit by a hurricane with high winds and storm tide (surge) and discussed the impact of flooding into homes and businesses.

Also, while bridges may be locked in the down position, they may not be safe after the storm as the ramps leading to the bridge may be damaged. Getting boats to safe harbor early may be necessary as Bridges are locked in the down position when an evacuation is declared. Generally, police will be monitoring bridge traffic once the bridge is locked down to allow people to come back to their property to pick up items or pets they missed.

Consider visiting friends off the Island, somewhere in the County, when there is a storm. But before you go, make sure the home has hurricane window and doors and verify the home's location to make sure it isn't in an evacuation zone. You can check the location by going to scvgov.net go to 'I want to find my evacuation level.' You enter the address and press enter, and it will show you where you are, e.g., what level that home is located in (A, B, C, etc.). Levels used to be zone, but we changed the terms as people would get confused with flood levels. Winds and tornados are also problems as these could pick up debris that becomes projectiles. Before you leave your home, be sure to put up hurricane shutters, cover your windows, and secure outside belongings when possible.

Emergency alert systems are set up (Code Red) to notify you on your smartphone of potential weather events such as hurricanes, storm surge, or tornados. Alerts are going out earlier than in the past. The recommendation today is to have a plan. Pull together your hurricane kit early, know where you are going to go (don't go the hotels near the water as they are probably in Level A or B or towards the Interstate), know where are going to meet up with your friends and family, and stay informed; watch the local news as they will give you the facts. Ed said his team remains in touch with the local stations and will keep them informed. Our guide will have these 10 steps, build a kit, have a plan, pack your bag with food, clothing, and medicine, get cash, gas up, and assess your needs (pets and pet food, etc.) A good tip is to have a bag for each person with everything you need and your food and water in another bag.

If you are thinking of staying, determine if your home built to handle the storm (built after 2002 with storm windows and doors) and you are not in an evacuation zone? Determine if you are going to stay, or do you go. The roads could be jammed as other counties maybe already leaving. If you decide to leave, check your route out early and consider leaving early. May want to look at the different roads as main highways will be packed, and it may take you 6 hours to get to Tampa.

We now have 11 evacuation centers in Sarasota. Think of them as a shelter, this should be your last resort; you get 20 feet of carpet with a cot. If you need a pillow or blanket, bring them. If you have a pet, bring their supplies and get a crate and train the pet beforehand, so they will not think it is punishment. Check the guide for how to contact the County if you have special medical needs or you need transportation to the shelter. The County will also have rally points set up, where you can take your vehicle and catch a bus to the shelter. You can either drive to a shelter, drive to a rallying point, or get picked up at your location if you can't drive (go to the website scvgov.net go to 'I want transportation').

How do I know when I can return, is it all clear? The County has codes, e.g., Red, Yellow, and Green. We could be clear from weather threats, but it may not be safe for people to return. Green: you are good to enter, back to normal. Yellow: trees down and maybe lights aren't working (4 way stop), proceed with caution and red: no-go, stay out, power lines down and danger on the roads. Sarasota County Emergency has a Facebook Page, where you will be able to get up to date information, see press briefing, pictures, etc.

Go to scvgov.net go to the bottom of the page where there is a pulse beat or type Code Red in the search box, and you can enter your information to sign up and select your alerts.

Questions:

- Gasoline to get back was a problem. The suggestion was to get gas when you arrive at your destination as fuel is always an issue. Once the tanker is empty, it has to go back into the traffic and doesn't come back quickly.
- Storm surge can undermine buildings, so you need to be careful, and high rises may not have working elevators or have water problems and can't run toilets.
- Backup generators – good idea to have one but it should be elevated and if there is a storm tide, it might be gone. Be sure to learn out to use as some people die from carbon emissions.
- Battery operated vehicles don't support long-range travel.

BOARD REPORTS

Siesta Promenade update: Ralph Brooks, the attorney of record for Sura Kochman, provided an update on the Siesta Promenade. We are seeking Judicial Review of the Siesta Promenade project. One part of the case is the request for procedural due process. This included review of all the issues including the proposed traffic lights on South 41 and Stickney Point Roads with all of its complexities, e.g., drawbridge, short span of road before major intersection, major traffic to and from the south end of the Island of Siesta Key and traveling North and South on 41. This light and the other light on 41 that was approved by the County that doesn't even own the road nor does the County have the authority to put a light there, and this was done without any traffic studies. This development will add an additional 12,000 car trips a day to the intersection of Stickney Point and 41.

The project also departed from the code, without granting special exceptions. The County also gave the builder 25 rather than 9 units per acre, the height code of the buildings at 85 feet rather than 25 that is standard, and the builder included single family multi-family units that are not allow in the current zoning area for the property. We are expecting the County to respond and then we have 15 days to respond. The case will probably will not get to the courts before August for oral arguments or probably early fall. Jim Wallace will be available to help you understand where the traffic impacts. Builder is working on getting a site clearing permit for the trailer pods and septic systems.

Big Pass Lido Issue update: Have an evidentiary hearing on July 19th meaning the City would be required to do their duty by all of us, and do their work to provide evidence that proper ordinances were followed. We now need some help financially to support the cost for the next hearing.

Website is coming along and work is proceeding.

Gulf Beach Setback line / Beach Access 10 – There are no changes, the project and its plans have not been filed with the County, so this project is dormant at this time.

Short Term Rental on Siesta Key update by Joe Volpe – The issues around potential hazards such as fires have been brought to the attention of the Fire Marshall. This is serious, and it is being reviewed as these 'mini-hotels' are not following the rules or the codes that are in place to protect renters, and typically followed by hotels. There are also other renter safety issues being explored. The County and State are taking these questions seriously.

ADJOURNMENT

Catherine adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Cannon, Secretary
Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

Next SKA monthly meeting is June 6, 2019 at 4:30 pm