

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, August 1, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

President Catherine Luckner called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Present: Catherine Luckner, Joyce Kouba, Natalie Gutwein, Roland Clark, Bob Luckner, and Erin Kreis.

MINUTES

Erin Kreis

Minutes for the June 2019 meeting will be approved at the September meeting.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Arik Smith

Sgt. Smith gave a brief report on activities on Siesta Key during the previous month.

GUEST SPEAKER

**Michael Regnier, Fire Chief, Sarasota County Fire
Department**

Chief Regnier reported that County Fire Station 13 located on Siesta Key, will be rebuilt, starting in spring, 2020, on its current site. The new building is expected to be a 2-story building which will take approximately 12 months to build. The building will be similar to the new stations on Bee Ridge Road and South Tamiami Trail. During construction, it is anticipated that the station personnel will move into the building which is located directly south of the current building. This temporary location will be leased and remodeled as necessary to accommodate the fire department staff.

The new façade will blend in well with the surrounding area. He indicated that this location is the best on the island for a fire station, and that there are no plans to construct a fire station on another site. Public access to the beach through the site will be maintained.

Catherine Luckner, on behalf of Director Volpe, asked questions of Chief Regnier, with respect to fire suppression systems in new homes built on the island with high number of bedrooms, and which are primarily used as rentals. Chief Regnier indicated that the Fire Department has no jurisdiction over private, single family residences including rentals and AirBNB. For multifamily (duplex, condo etc.) they must obtain a license and the County Fire Marshall is responsible for code compliance and inspection. Private rentals and AirBNB in a single family residence is code gray area which he is working on presently. He pointed out that the State has established building codes regarding fire safety in private residences. He mentioned that the Sarasota Fire Inspector is very aware of what is happening with this issue on Siesta Key. He additionally indicated that the Fire Department's ladder truck can reach the top of a four-story building.

Chief Regnier also mentioned that Station 13 on Siesta Key is designated as advanced life support, which means that its staff can provide assistance similar to emergency room personnel. All fire station staff is cross-trained, which means that emergency medical services crew can also serve as firefighters.

BOARD REPORTS

Big Pass Legal Update

Bob Luckner

USACE opened their bids for the Lido project with both bids significantly greater than budgeted expectations. There are two bids, with the lowest, \$7M, (57%) greater than estimated. The only other bid is \$13 million, (93%) greater than their estimate. This doesn't include the sea grass mitigation the City has agreed to pay separately to Manatee County (\$1.2M).

The biggest cost overrun is estimated cost of the dredged sand. The bid was \$16/CY versus an estimate of \$9.4/CY. USACE didn't reduce the amount of sand necessary even though 210,000 CY from New Pass has already been placed recently. They have not reduced the amount of advance sand placement of 500,000 CY which was based on an *erroneous erosion rate of 100,000 CY* per year. Their own Value Engineering study concluded the erosion rate was only *half that* (50,000 CY per year) with the new groins. Since the city has to pay 20% of the increase as their share (about \$1.4 million) the state may have to increase their share also. They have 60 days to award a contract or reject all bids.

County Administration has declined a request by the City to use Ted Sperling County Park for staging of equipment, rocks, and machinery for the nourishment. The Administration stated their final answer to the City was sent by Asst. Administrator Johnson, "Our evaluation of the City's request has produced several concerns including how the construction timeline conflicts with periods of high park utilization, restrictions to primary beach access points, and negative impacts to the park's infrastructure and natural resources."

SKEDF-Funding

Catherine Luckner

We need your continued support to complete the SKA legal challenge. Writ of Mandamus is being sought from City of Sarasota. With two judicial reviews indicating we have sufficient grounds, our case is strong. A recent Hearing was not expected or required for Mandamus until Attorney for City (Herin) questioned whether SKA had in fact, attended a meeting with City Manager and Engineer. This meeting was facilitated by former County and City Commissioner, Nora Patterson. The Judge then ordered an Evidentiary Hearing held on July 23, 2019. The costs then increased significantly for SKA. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our efforts.

Siesta Promenade

Catherine Luckner

Arguments have not yet been held for this project. Director Erin Kreis asked why the perimeter of the Siesta Promenade property has been roped off and that it looks like the property is being cleared. Catherine reported that Benderson Development Co. has obtained a permit which allows for the removal of the septic tanks and concrete pads located throughout the property for the former mobile homes. Benderson Development has not yet obtained a permit which would allow for tree removal.

Website

Joyce Kouba

Joyce indicated that the new Siesta Key Association website is nearing completion of its redesign, and will be ready to launch very soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Wasterwater Update

Bob Luckner

There has not been a Health Dept. 'all clear' status on the Grand Canal. CodeRed will send out the notice when completed.

Request for Transient Exception

Catherine Luckner

There will be a neighborhood workshop to discuss property where special exception status for 'transient 'accommodations' is being requested. The property is CG Zoned and is not seeking a 'rezone'. The property is a duplex on 1/10th of an acre, within an RMF zoned (transient rental) accommodations. Two Directors will attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Speed Reduction/Village/Ocean Blvd.
(Member Initiated)

Catherine Luckner

Catherine Luckner reported an SKA member has proposed lowering the speed limit in Siesta Village from 20 miles per hour to 15 mph. She

mentioned that doing so would be similar to what has already occurred in South Side Village. The member has proposed starting discussions with Sarasota County in this regard, in addition to adding or updating/modifying the pedestrian crossings. Catherine indicated that the Board would appreciate hearing feedback on this issue from Membership, and that this would be an issue discussed at future meetings.

Survey Participation needed – Future Transportation Catherine Luckner
(Member Initiated)

Catherine Luckner indicated that there currently is available an on-line survey on transportation issues in Sarasota County. Transportation seems to be a hot topic. She urged membership to consider completing the survey. The survey is located at <https://www.mympo.org/transformtomorrow>. Transportation issues will be a topic of discussion at future SKA meetings.

DISCUSSION

An SKA member suggested that the SKA look into the possibility of signage on westbound Stickney Point Road, well east of the bridge and closer to US-41, which would point out to drivers that they need to be in the right hand lane if they are heading to the public beach. This would eliminate a lot of last-minute lane changes, and ease congestion.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Catherine Luckner adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Kreis
(For Jean Cannon, Secretary)
Siesta Key Association of Sarasota, Inc.

Next SKA monthly meeting is September 5, 2019 at 4:30 pm.