

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday November 7, 2019

COMMUNITY WELCOME/GUEST SIGN-IN
CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Luckner

Present: Catherine Luckner, Joyce Kouba, Bob Luckner, Dan Lundy, Joe Volpe, Jean Cannon, Elizabeth Gomez-Mayo, Tom Surprise, and Eddie Ward

Catherine called the meeting to order and announced that we are, Siesta Key Association, is celebrating its 70th birthday on Nov 12. Siesta Key Association is celebrating 70 years of service to our community. Catherine also recognized some returning SKA directors and past presidents in the audience.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Arik Smith

Sgt. Smith gave us a brief report on crime on the Key. In October, we had 4% of the crime as Part 1 crimes and a rash of burglaries at Beach Access #8. The Beach Access 8 crime seemed to be a group at the Beach access that was doing a smash a grab-action. They were looking in the windows, when they see something, they breaking into cars and steal the goods. This smash-an-grab seems to be a trend around this time of the year when a group of people come into parking areas and take advantage of unlocked cars or see goods in vehicles. We believe they came in from another area. Two other burglaries were because cars were unlocked.

Also, we did have someone come back to their home to find someone living in their house.

We again want to remind you to lock your doors. Mike asked about patrols and officers. Do we have an officer shortage? Sgt. Smith didn't think so, but he will look into it. Joe asked about cars with color lights underneath or on the side, such as red light on cars. Sgt. Smith said blue lights are not allowed, and he will have his officers watch out for this.

GUEST SPEAKER

Neal Dollar, Partnership Service Director for the Census

He is the leader for Census activities in our Area. He is a veteran and has been doing this job for six months.

He shared some information about the Census. The Census is very important and was important enough to be written into the Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. It says a count will be done to count everyone in our Country every ten (10) years. The first count was 3.9 million people. The count is done for two reasons to determine the number of representatives per state and to determine based on census results the amount of Federal budget money distributed to each state.

On April 1st, when we do our counts, the count will remain at that number for the next ten years. The count will not be adjusted again for ten years, so it is essential to count everyone. Again, until the next census, we do not adjust congressional seats nor make changes the amount Federal budget dollar distributions to the states.

The Census cannot be done without help and assistance from community leaders, Associations, local governments, and others to get the message out. In 2010, after the count was done, Florida gained two additional seats and New York lost two. So the population fluctuates. Today, the growth in Florida is about 1,000 people per month. This is a huge jump in our population and more political power for Florida. This count affects funding for roads, housing assistance, school programs, Medicaid, hospitals, housing assistance, etc. There are 132 programs, and a lot of the programs are geared towards the less fortunate in our communities.

In 2010, 72% of the people across America returned their Census information. Sarasota County had a 75% completion rate. However, that still means that one in four households or 25% did not respond to the Census. The Census Bureau has information from many different sources to determine the actual number of households

or taxpayers in an area. They use this information to go back and review the data collected to determine where they need to follow-up. The goal for America is to count everyone once and only once. For seasonal residents, we want to count who is here six months and one day. If you spend the majority of your time in another location, you should count yourself in that location. We want to count every person that is here, legal, illegal, or visiting (guest or seasonal workers). It is our job to count everyone.

For the first time, we are going to try to do everything online. We are looking to do 95% of our responses online. On March 12, we are sending a letter with a code to every single resident in America. The letter will ask everyone to go online with their code and complete the ten questions for everyone in your house. If we can do this online, it will save labor and processing cost. If you don't fill your Census out by March 19th, we will send a postcard to say you didn't fill it out, please go online and fill it out. If you don't fill it out, next week we will do the same thing, we will send another mailer. The fourth time, we will mail out the paper questionnaire as we are assuming the person is not able to complete it online.

We do have workarounds, such as setting up labs at the Sarasota County libraries to help people log-in and complete the census questionnaire for their household. We are asking Associations and others to offer assistance so people can get online and complete it. If we still don't get the questionnaires back, we will visit the location and have teams go out to go door to door to get the Census information completed.

The Census will not start until April 1. There are people out there that will take advantage of the Census situation. They may make-up a badge, dress in a suit, and may attempt to get your personal information such as Social Security, Medicare, or banking information. Census takes do not ask for this information. We are also not affiliated with any political parties, and we do not ask for money. Also, watch for people mailing you questionnaires indicating they need information for the Census.

The Census and the Census personnel do not release anyone's information. The information taken in the Census is not released to the public for 72 years. The most recent Census data available today is the 1940 Census. Only demographic data is released to government agencies for their use. No census data is released on an individual level.

Some persons and groups are hard to count. People that are isolated, people by public assistance, people that are not citizens and people who are immigrating, people living in rural areas, single parents, and the most significant group were children under the age of five. We missed about 1 million under the age of 5 were missed in 2010. We will want to make sure we count these children this year. The bottom line, we need to educate and gain support in these areas and understand how we can help them fill out the questionnaire for a good County population count.

So how do we do this, we use a tool we call Complete Count Committee. The City of Sarasota is put in place their own Complete Count Committee. A Chair is established with subcommittees. The subcommittees will be formed around, Government Agencies, outreach organizations, Veterans, Faith-based organizations, Salvation Army, Immigrants, etc. My job is to go out and train these groups on how it is done. This is an efficient way to get organized and get the message out to the individual County communities.

What we have been doing for the last three years is verifying addresses. We have gone out and around various neighborhoods to verify addresses. Census is hiring. You need to be 18 years old and a citizen. You can go to the Census website to apply, and it could take about four months to be approved.

BOARD REPORTS

Siesta Promenade update:

Catherine provided a brief update for the Benderson Siesta Promenade project. A hearing was held in the middle of October. Each side presented for 20 Minutes. What has come through on this project is traffic. The Intersection of Stickney Point and 41 has been identified as a significant problem. This intersection has been cited by the State for its accidents and safety. The issue is about the safety for the people on Siesta Key. The Benderson project will increase the density and exacerbate the current traffic problems.

Catherine addressed a question on the road swap (River Road for Stickney and North Siesta roads) between the County and FDOT.

Big Pass Dredging Issue update:

Bob provided an updated on the Court filings both for SKA and SOSS2. He mentioned we, (SKA), need more money as the court filing just presented has taken a bite out of our accounts. He also discussed the City's request to use Sterling Park to stage for the dredging equipment. The City has not filed any permit or zoning requests to use the Park.

The County has asked that the city do the permits or zoning requests to use the Park. He also talked about the use of groins to trap and manage the sand. Our appeal is due to come up in December 2019. He discussed that most of the overrun on the City's budget for the project is because they are asking for more sand than needed. He thinks they will cut down on how much sand they need. If they do, then they could take what they need from the front end instead of dredging inside the pass.

Joe mentioned the issue of potential using Marine Jack's to as a new port for large yachts in the winter. To do this, they need to dredge Big Pass. Joe also mentioned the concerns of digging a channel that would direct storm water into the harbor around Marine Jack's; and, the potential impact that would increase wave energy coming in the City and along the North Shore of Siesta Key. Bob also mentioned the power and water lines that are in the channel.

Short Term Rental on Siesta Key update by Joe Volpe:

Residential single family (RSF) cannot be rented for less than 30 days. If you rent less than 30 days, you can't rent again until the next 30 days pass. He also spoke about AirBNB cracking down on party house rentals. Joe reported that owners are now following the rules. He said, is it up to us to be the eyes and ears in our neighborhoods.

Mike talked about the need for the County to implement a process for RMF. Need to have some rules and ownership for who are renting. Joe said they have talked to the County about this last year, and it is going to take pressure.

Redistricting

Commission meeting on Tuesday, 19th of November to discuss redistricting, a new map has been introduced and other information on redistricting is on the Siesta Key website.

ADJOURNMENT

Catherine adjourned the meeting.

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

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

Submitted by: Margaret Jean Cannon, Secretary of Siesta Key Association of Sarasota Inc.