

Siesta Key Association

June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Community Welcome /Guest Sign-In

Call to Order

Catherine called the meeting to order and welcomed Members and Guest
Jean put forth the approval of May 2, 2019 Minutes Approval by Elizabeth Gomez-Mayo and Roland Clark
Introduction to the new website and it is getting ready to be published soon.

Call Reports

Sheriff's Office:

The new representative from the Sheriff's Office was not available to attend meeting.
Catherine provided a brief update on some action by the Police on the Key. Ed Ward added additional details regarding the incident. It was because teenagers had illegally taken a car. The Police were able to intercept and arrest the teens without any additional incidents.

Ed Ward, a SKA director, reported on the current Siesta Key Chamber activities and some of the growth of the Village. A new Village restaurant and Sport Bar called MVP will opening within a week across from the Hub Baja Grill and is operated by the Beach Club.

Guest Speaker

Mollie K. Holland is the Coordinator for the Sarasota County NEST (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team)

Mollie recently reported at the Sarasota County Water Quality Summit. Mollie works for the Storm Water office for Sarasota County and has worked on water quality issues in other organizations.

She talked about the amount of rain the area receives; typically about 53 inches per year, and sometimes it falls at all at once, e.g., 8 inches in 24 hours. It typically rains a lot in four months out of the year. She reported that this is a lot of water impacts as it has to be handled by our streets, in our neighborhood, and it flows into storm water systems including the waterways.

We used to have a lot of wetlands around the Bay but these have disappeared with the development. This water did move after being in the wetlands they would evaporate or eventually go into our Bay or Gulf. The lakes are not natural in our area they have been created to today as catch basins, other storm water management areas, and retention ponds.

On Siesta Key, if your neighborhood was created after 1984, the storm water goes right into the Bay or Gulf waterways. Our systems are built to handle maximum of 8 inches in a 24 hour day. However, when event occur, the water in the coastal areas comes off the road and land and into the Bays. It does not have time to cure or lose the additional sediments. It can be too warm, not

Siesta Key Association

June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

salty enough, or it picks up sand and a number of pollutants. This impacts sea grass and resets Mother Nature balance affecting not just the land but our sea grass and the sea life as well.

Storm water, generally not salty and just by its presence can be disruptive to an environment. It can carry additional pollutants. These come in many forms car gasoline and oils from the road, fertilizers, pesticides and nitrates for the shrubs and lawns, pet waste, grass clippings and leaf matter, and other bacteria. All of this can create harmful bacteria.

Molly talking about the water quality testing that is done. She said the County contractors test about 100 samples monthly. The County has been sampling since 2001. The tests are for e-coli, nitrates (3 kinds), color, and phosphates (2 kinds). The smell (around Marine Jacks and around the Key) is coming from the sea grass. The sulfur smell is coming from decomposing where lyngbya algae are present or the oyster beds are exposed. We collect and use our data so we have information to apply for outside funds to source County projects. We analysis the data collected to determine where best to spend targeted money for public outreach. There are reports on the Sarasota County water quality website.

Questions were asked about the red tide impact on the trout, e.g., catch and release only as a direct result of the red tide. Molly responded that a lot of catches today are catch and release only. She also talked about her recently visit some structures offshore. She water about 3,000 feet off shore and 30 feet deep. She was surprised to see the sea life coming back after about 4 or 5 months after the main red tide outbreak. She mentioned there are a lot of currents out in the Gulf that move water and so when the storms come in it stirs everything and storms helps with the flushing but this is difficult to measure because it is so dependent on timing.

Midnight Pass dredging, Molly likes to look at trends overtime. Personally, she thinks the Pass will be open sooner or later. Mike and Molly talked about Trout coming back, sea grass growth, diversity, and other juvenile fish that are thriving. Big Pass dredging, unfortunately Molly wasn't knowledgeable on this subject or project, and the possible dredging.

There is a banning of some types of sunscreens on Key West beaches because of water impact, is there something like that going on at Sarasota beaches? Molly says it is smart to consider switching since it is smart for our water quality. A question was asked about dogging bags: the ask of Molly, was to fill station dispensers as they don't have bags anymore. **Can we get the County to refill the stations with bags? Molly took this as an action to follow up on this. She also mentioned we could mark the storm drains so that people won't throw trash or dog bags into the storm drains.**

Siesta Key Association
June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Molly talked about when to stop putting fertilizer on your lawns and that generally our lawns have enough nitrogen. She left materials on reading fertilizer labels, free testing for soil, dig down a few inches and take samples to County Ag Extension Services.

Board Reports

Membership: Roland Clark

Membership update, we are trying to increase our membership and raise money and to keep Siesta Key as Siesta Key. Our environment and location is very attractive and it is a place where we all want to visit and live. There is a lot of pressure from builders and hotel owners that want to build. Looking for volunteers to help us grow membership to 100% of Siesta Key residents.

Big Pass: Catherine's update: By mid-August, we should have a hearing. Judge is aware that the City is dragging its feet. We are pushing to get the done and for the judge to rule on the environment. Sea grass mitigation plan may not be necessary as there are other issues with respect to dredging near or at this location. Tom Barwin is to be deposed at the end of June.

Siesta Promenade: Siesta Key filed a Friend of the Court brief (Elizabeth was the lead on this.) It was recently amended with minor changes, awaiting word on the date of the hearing. For SKA and the Promenade group will be a need funding assistance. SKA brought to the Counties attention that removal of trees and concrete blocks could affect the environment and run-off.

Update on Short Term rental action: Short term rentals Fire Marshall is advertising to fill positions that would be doing fire code reviews of rental properties. More follow-up will be required to confirm what properties will be included

Environment Actions: Elizabeth spoke on the program Keep Sarasota Beautiful. She is looking to get 100 people with SKA come to sign up for clean up on Siesta Key Beach. She is also looking to have SKA to adopt a road or an area that we could be more involved with to keep clean and get a sign set up with the SKA name.

Adjournment: Save the Date –August 8, 2019

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