

**SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 2, 2011**  
**St Boniface Church, Room F**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Catherine Luckner called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Helen Clifford, Deet Jonker, Ann Kaplan, Joyce Kouba, Peter van Roekens, Michael Shay, Bob Tripp, Joe Volpe, Bob Waechter. Excused: Gayle Wardner.

**2. MINUTES** – Joyce Kouba

Bob Waechter moved, with Helen Clifford seconding, to approve the May minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. NEW DIRECTOR**

Ann Kaplan welcomed Beverly Arias as a new SKA Director.

**4. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**Sheriff's Office**

- Sgt. Osborne noted that this was the busiest Memorial Day weekend he has experienced. The beach parking lot was full by 9 a.m.
- There have been some vehicle burglaries, predominantly unlocked cars.
- The audience alerted Sgt. Osborne to several abandoned beach tents. Park maintenance will remove them after a few days. Sgt. Osborne stated the beach 'tents' are not allowed to remain up overnight.

**Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce (SKCC)**

Kevin Cooper, Executive Director of SKCC, outlined SKCC's fund raising activities for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. Bob Tripp moved, with Peter van Roekens seconding, to contribute \$1050 for the fireworks. The motion passed unanimously. Kevin also announced sale of \$5 raffle tickets to win a chance to help start the fireworks. Tickets are available at Key merchants. All funds donated for fireworks are used fully for the fireworks event.

**Siesta Key Village Association (SKVA)**

- Russ Matthes announced that SKVA will install two trial newspaper racks in the Village. Many publications have already reserved space.
- SKCC is investigating how to capitalize on the Dr. Beach #1 rating.
- Russ met with a company that manufactures a sound barrier product and has provided the information to other merchants. He is charting his sound readings.
- Sassy Hair will hold a fundraiser for Sarasota Defense of Animals on June 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

**County Parks and Recreation**

Diana Finnegan announced that Summer Beach Runs on Siesta Key will be held every Tuesday June 14 through August 16. Registration is 5:30 p.m., race starts at 6:30 p.m. SKA's contribution will help pay for participant's ribbons, T-shirts, and ice pops. Diana provided copies of the Parks and Recreations brochure.

**5. PUBLIC/AUDIENCE COMMENT** (15 Guests)

In response to a question regarding loud music from boats, Sgt. Osborne stated that due to a court ruling, citations for noise from boats or cars are no longer being issued. If the license number is reported to 365-TAGS, the boat owner will receive a letter.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **ENVIRONMENT – Gayle Wardner (Catherine Luckner)**

- Catherine thanked Commissioner Patterson for supporting funding for trapping and removal of iguanas. The program appears to have been successful as the iguana population has not posed any recent problems. Ann Kaplan thanked Gayle for her persistent efforts in addressing this issue.
- In response to concerns regarding railroad vine negatively impacting turtle-nesting, Catherine stated that there have been no problems. Sighted nests are double last year's count.
- The beach nesting bird protection project has resulted in chicks hatching on Lido Key. A colony of skimmers is established on Longboat Key. Many new nests have appeared in the buffered areas.

### **ZONING – Peter van Roekens**

Peter announced that the public hearing on Temporary Use Permit regulations will be June 8th. The recommendation can be read on the SKA minutes link and County web site through Public Access.

### **ADOPT-A-ROAD – Michael Shay**

Michael has begun trash pickup on the stretch of road after Siesta Drive enters Siesta Key to Midnight Pass. He is looking for volunteers to help with pickup on both the north and south Key. He is also investigating anti-litter signage. Dianna Zimmermann applauded efforts to keep the Key clean and said it was one factor in attracting her to the island. It is illegal to blow debris into the roads or canals.

### **ROAD IMPROVEMENT – Joe Volpe**

Joe reported that the County is purchasing several radar signs to assist with speed calming. Proposed placement is either side of the beach parking lot, Ocean Boulevard north of Treasure Boat Way, Midnight Pass west of the Grand Canal and south of Stickney Point. Placement options were reviewed with the Sheriff's Department and approved. Commissioner Patterson was acknowledged for her support of the project. Ann Kaplan stated that she can hear the sounds of speeding vehicles on Midnight Pass from her home several miles away. Deet suggested that speeding occurs west of the Grand Canal Bridge to Ocean Boulevard.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- A meeting regarding the North Siesta Bridge rehab project will be held on July 7. SKA will send an email blast to members. The project engineer will be at the meeting. This will be the last opportunity for public comment until the month preceding bridge construction in 2012.
- Helen Clifford moved, with Peter van Roekens seconding, that SKA support the Siesta Key Condominium Association (SKCA) recommendations to the County for safety improvements at the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Beach Way. The three recommendations are: 1) reduce speed from 35 to 30 miles per hour

between Midnight Pass and the Village, 2) improve crossing ground lighting, and 3) trim the base of palm trees. Bob Waechter moved, with Michael Shay seconding, to amend the motion by deleting the speed limit recommendation. The amendment failed, 7 no to 3 yes. The motion passed 7 yes to 3 no.

- Sgt. Osborne stated that to his knowledge, the individual referenced at the May meeting had never been the subject of any suspected criminal activity.
- Sgt. Osborne explained that anyone is free to use the public parks or right of way as long as they are not doing anything unlawful. “Loitering” is defined as having intent to do something unlawful. “Camping” is not permitted, but legally entails more than sleeping in an area.
- Catherine provided a handout showing FPL’s tree trimming schedule for Siesta Key and adjacent areas.
- The traffic study for the preliminary design of the Siesta Beach Improvements Project is now posted to the project website at:  
<http://www.scgov.net/PublicWorks/CIP/Siesta.asp>.
- In response to concern over noise in the Village, Peter van Roekens, in conjunction with SKVA and SKCC, will be establishing various sound measurement points in and around the Village.
- Catherine Luckner discussed the upcoming Sarasota County plan for new district boundaries. An opposing plan proposes to move District 4 south and District 5 north. A significant concern is that this proposal would relocate the current Commissioner for District 4 (includes Siesta Key) to Northport. Additionally Siesta Key would be ‘split’ from Bay Island. Public hearings will be held June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be submitted to the County Commission. Bob Waechter moved, with Peter van Roekens seconding, that SKA support the County plan for districting. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. ADJOURN** – President Luckner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba  
Secretary, Siesta Key Association