

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2011

St Boniface Church, Room F

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Catherine Luckner called the meeting to order and introduced guests and the officers for 2011. A quorum was present: Deet Jonker, Ann Kaplan, Joyce Kouba, Bob Tripp, Peter van Roekens, Joe Volpe, Bob Waechter, Gayle Wardner. Excused: Paul van Deventer.

2. MINUTES – Joyce Kouba

Deet Jonker moved, with Bob Tripp seconding, to approve the Special Elections Meeting minutes. Bob Tripp moved, with Bob Waechter seconding, to approve the February minutes. The motions passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC/AUDIENCE COMMENT (28 Guests)

- Captain Richards, with the Sheriff's Department, provided an update on crime on Siesta Key. He handed out a brochure about the Sheriff's office and a press release from Sheriff Knight. Statistics (which can be found on the Sheriff's web site www.SarasotaSheriff.org) indicate that, in general, crime in Sarasota and on the Key has declined since last year. Siesta Key received 4% of the County calls for service. Staffing is based on analysis of call activity. More deputies will be on duty for spring break season (now through April 24th). Captain Richards encouraged everyone to report crimes to the Sheriff's office immediately. For emergencies, call 911 and for non-emergencies call 316-1201. Captain Richards attributed the decrease in crime to doing a better job, reorganization of patrol zones, and to more proactive "intelligent policing" policies. A significant number of false alarm calls are received.
- Home Alarm systems must be registered with the Sheriff's department. The number to call for registration is 861-4084.
- Questions regarding traffic accidents were referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee/Traffic Bureau. Mike Shay reported that there seem to be a high number of accidents near Gleason and Ocean Blvd. He requested that SKA look at what might be done to improve safety at this intersection.
- Russ Matthes, President of SKVA, reported on a recent Village safety meeting organized with assistance from Lourdes Ramirez as a follow up to comments at the February SKA meeting. Attendees included two members of the Sheriff's Department and Commissioner Patterson. Residents expressed concerns about several issues with the commercial establishments in the Village e.g., early morning trash pickup, security, lighting, safe serving, and noise. Business owners are trying to modify business practices to mitigate these concerns. Russ contacted Waste Management regarding scheduling. An issue was raised regarding noise at the Siesta Key Oyster Bar. Michael Shay asked about cigarette butts and recycling of commercial trash. Russ stated that the businesses were looking into recycling. He was equally exasperated about the cigarette butts and stated that nothing he has tried (urns, signs) seems to help reduce the mess.
- There are still trash bags on the empty lot near Treasure Boat and Ocean Boulevard.

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CODE ENFORCEMENT – John Lally

- Brad Bailey is the new manager of code enforcement.
- John wrote 17 citations in the Village on Sunday for sign violations. He is investigating the practice of giving immediate fines for sign violations.
- He is also working on solid waste (e.g. put out too early, trash cans left out) and storm water discharge (e.g. chemicals, grease, yard waste) violations. Ann Kaplan recommended public education regarding putting yard waste into the canals.
- John participated in training with approximately 50 people on the new sound meters which are hand-held, self-calibrating, and give immediate printout. Sound violations were down, but have been increasing recently.
- People have been illegally renting out residential lots for beach parking.
- A question was raised regarding a tent set up on top of Big Olaf's. There is no indication that there is any illegal activity.
- Blue Smoke was roasting a pig on the County right-of-away. That has now been moved to their property.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Deet Jonker

Member decals and solicitation to approximately 500 members who did not renew should be mailed next week.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Patterson reported that the County is looking at their special event permitting procedures in regards to order of review and the possibility of the Commissioners weighing in on certain permits.
- Catherine reminded all that the DOT meeting regarding the north bridge closing for repairs is March 15 at the Siesta Key Chapel 4 to 7 p.m.
- Gayle Wardner received an urgent request from the Audubon Society for help with this season's Snowy Plover nesting season. The request was for 1) funds for brochures and a paid part-time volunteer coordinator and 2) help to protect nests at the beach. The board asked Gayle to obtain more specifics on allocation of funds and specific duties for volunteers. Gayle moved, with Bob Tripp seconding, to post a reference to the snowy plover project on the SKA web site, with a link to the Audubon site. The motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURN – President Luckner adjourned the meeting. .

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba
Secretary, Siesta Key Association