

**SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 6, 2008**  
**St. Boniface Church, Meeting Room F**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Lourdes Ramirez called the meeting to order. Present: Matthew Burnett, Deet Jonker, Ann Kaplan, Joyce Kouba, Robert Schennum, Peter van Roekens, Gayle Wardner. Excused: Ron Flynn, Bob Tripp, Paul van Deventer, Bob Waechter. Absent: Daniel Bechtold.

**2. MINUTES – Joyce Kouba**

The October minutes were approved.

**3. FINANCIAL REPORT – Bob Tripp**

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**4. SHERIFF'S REPORT – Deputy Matt Binkley**

- No crime trends; influx of tourists has started
- Businesses in street work area put signs in right-of-way; County made professional signs
- Public is invited to stop in to see the new training office at Stickney Point Road.

**5. LIFEGUARD REPORT – J. R. Ayers (Lourdes Ramirez)**

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Attendance       | 104,250 |
| Minor First Aids | 169     |
| Major First Aids | 0       |

Lifeguards will be participating in the annual emergency services chili cookoff on November 9 at Morton's Market. All are invited to attend.

**6. PUBLIC/AUDIENCE COMMENT - 25 Guests**

*Demetra McBride, Manager, Sarasota County Forestry*

Sarasota's tree canopy is in good condition. The County is confident that they can deal with necessary tree maintenance to provide access after storms. Demetra needs input from SKA for reporting to the BCC as to whether the County should cut down some large trees (including Australian pines) along evacuation routes on Siesta Key in anticipation that they could fall during a hurricane. SKA urged that no trees be cut unless they are diseased or in eminent danger of falling, since it would severely change the character of the main roads and remove the residential buffer. Evacuation from the Key is prior to a storm.

*Rae Dowling, Florida Power & Light*

Siesta Key residents voiced complaints about recent FPL tree trimming. FPL halted trimming on the Key until concerns could be discussed with the public. They acknowledged that some recent work had not met company standards. Trimming will resume November 10, with an arborist on hand to provide additional training to the crew on the trimming standards followed by FPL. FPL also agreed to provide their annual trimming schedule to SKA so that it could be posted on the SKA web site. FPL trims feeder lines every 2 years and lateral lines every 6 years. They provide a letter of intent to trim 2 weeks prior to trimming and a door hanger, 1 to

4 days in advance. Residents cannot hire private arborists to trim around electric lines because FPL has the liability for maintaining the lines in operating condition. However, FPL will listen to recommendations from private arborists. Undergrounding lines is an option, but would incur additional cost since FPL is an above ground electric utility. No studies appear to have been done comparing the current costs involved in annual trimming, after-storm maintenance, tree removal, etc. versus undergrounding lines. Other ideas included sheathing lines, less aggressive pruning, and replacing trees with lower growing varieties. FPL provided maps of current trimming locations on Siesta Key. Demetra has been facilitating discussions between FPL and citizens' groups concerned about FPL's severe tree pruning methods.

## 7. **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MIDNIGHT PASS** – Bob Waechter – No report

**TURTLE BEACH** – Ron Flynn – No Report

**INLET MANAGEMENT** – Peter van Roekens (Lourdes Ramirez)

Big Pass markers 4 & 5 are missing. The deepest water route now is on the southeast side of the shoal marker. Check the SYC website for the latest details.

<http://www.sarasotayachtclub.org/fw/main/Big-Pass-Information-405.html>

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** – Gayle Wardner

Gayle requested that SKA recommend not allowing chain link fences at front of property in the next SKOD update.

**PARKING** – Bob Schennum

Staff recommendations may go to the BCC on December 9.

## 8. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NOMINATING/BOARD DEVELOPMENT** – Paul van Deventer – (Deet Jonker)

Three new directors were unanimously elected to the board: Art August, Cathy Luckner, and Nancy Wilson. Dan Bechtold will leave the board.

**ZONING** – Lourdes Ramirez

- ***Coastal Code GBSL*** – Adopted stronger ordinance.
- ***Zoning Code Update*** – Approved except for four issues. Scheduled for approval next week: Non-conforming structures can be renovated as long as there is not increase in non-conformity.
- ***Drainage Project*** - A report on the total nutrient load is scheduled for December.
- The County denied docks for Condos near Givens.
- No update on Hyatt, Hub, and Tenacity Lane projects.
- Farmer's Market – Added uses and measures to control noise.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Deet Jonker - No report.

## 9. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

10. **NEW BUSINESS** – The County is considering lowering reducing impact fees.

11. **ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Kouba  
Secretary, Siesta Key Association