

SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2011
St Boniface Church, Room F

- **CALL TO ORDER**

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

- **MINUTES** – Beverly Arias

Bob Waechter moved, with Michael Shay seconding, to approve the August minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

Michael Shay moved to vote for payment of SKA's liability insurance which would be no more than \$3100. Bob Waechter seconded. Bob Waechter called for discussion to ascertain that the amount would be no more than \$3100. It was confirmed that the amount was actually less with \$3100 being the cap. The motion was passed unanimously.

- **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

SHERIFF'S OFFICE - Sgt. Osborne

- August was relatively slow until the end of month with vehicle burglaries on Sandy Shore and Oxford, some vehicle entries along Treasure Boat way.. Two males were apprehended at 3am the previous week, and one had possession of a gun stolen from an unlocked vehicle. The two were suspected of previous burglaries in the vicinity of where they lived on Siesta Key.
- There was some confusion about how many vehicle burglaries actually occurred.. Some vehicle entries were not reported as nothing was taken. Almost every burglary was an unlocked vehicle.
- Thefts on the beach occurred with people losing their beach bags. The Sheriff's office is currently working on strategy to catch thieves
- Slight increase in homeless people which has been addressed, and one is still here but has not broken any laws which have been reported.
- There has been no increase or trends of home burglaries since previous year..
- Sgt. Osborne introduced two law enforcement officers: Sgt. Kraayenbrink in charge of Florida Marine Patrol Unit, and Lt. Rob Gerkins, Florida Fish and Wildlife Officer, who were there to help answer questions about the manatees protections and boating regulations.

SIESTA KEY CHAMBER – Catherine Luckner (on behalf of Chamber)

- Crystal Sand Classic has drawn many people participating as sponsors with funds, after costs, donated to Mote Marine. Anyone interested may log onto the website www.crystalsandclassic.org to learn more about being a sponsor. You may also call the Chamber or Mote Marine directly.
- Guest, Nancy Deckard, noted that 450 volunteers are needed for booths, check-ins, parking at Philippi Creek with a free bus ride to the beach. Volunteers will get a t-shirt, and armband for prepaid admission
- In-kind sponsorship offers event benefits in exchange for personal time donated.

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

INLET MANAGEMENT – Peter van Roekens (Catherine Luckner)

Big Pass Information as of August 18, 2011. The course has shifted again to the east southeast and we expect that trend to continue. The course heading out starts near Red BP 8 and runs in a straight line on a course of 203 M.6nm to a point in deeper water just inside BPS. The course appears to have a controlling depth of about 6.0' at Mean Low Water but the slot is increasingly narrower. For more details refer to:

<http://www.sarasotayachclub.org/Visitor-Info/Navigational-Items-oof-Interest/Big-Pass-Information-405.html>

ENVIRONMENTAL – Catherine Luckner, Michael Shay

Every year SKA is a sponsor for the “Keep Sarasota Beautiful Coastal Cleanup” through the Ocean Conservancy. Volunteers can sign up individually on the Sarasota County website, or volunteers are invited to join SKA and they will get t-shirts and collection bags. The cleanup event is scheduled on Sept 24th and covers many locations including Siesta Key. Michael Shay will coordinate participation of the volunteers, provide t-shirts and bags, and will lead the group starting at 8am at one of the beach accesses working toward the main beach. Volunteers can contact Michael by phone or email.

PRESENTATION – Rachel Herman

- SKA was honored to have Rachel Herman, a scientist with Sarasota County Natural Resources whose presentation, *Sarasota County Manatee Protection Planning*, covered manatee habitat in the Sarasota waters which is documented by Mote Marine Laboratory via aerial and boat sightings, land surveys, and telemetry data. Rachel offered information about the creation of speed zones. Mike Solum from Sarasota County Natural Resources also provided helpful information.
- Lt. Rob Gerkin was available to answer questions about the enforcement of slow and idle speed requirements in the ICW. He shared that idle speed is only fast enough to maintain steerage. Sgt.

Kraayenbrink suggested treating "idle and slow" speeds as the same, slow being enough speed to feel the boat set and be able to maintain steering. It was mentioned that the shape of a boat's hull can affect how speed affects wake..

- Lt. Gerkin says educating people first and having law enforcement officers present will help establish speed zones. It is written in state law that boat rental businesses must provide education.
- Mike Solum received new speed signs from the state and 90% of signs have been replaced by now. Signs can be confusing. Bob Waechter has sent 12 emails in the last year to request a specific sign for a key area. Nora Patterson stated that signs around the narrow canal would impact manatees and boaters and firmly suggested the contractor install that bridge sign next. Until the posting, the law is difficult to enforce.
- Dave Thomas has provided contact info to order two free manatee signs that homeowners can place on their docks. Call (800) 432-JOIN or www.savethemanatee.org

- **Grass Roots for the Troops – Gerry Tausch**

Gerry Tausch returned after speaking at SKA's August meeting about her volunteer organization which provides items to deployed troops, military families, and veterans. At that meeting, SKA voted to donate \$250 to "Grass Roots 4r the Troops" which was used immediately to ship more boxes of supplies to the troops. She came to present a gift to SKA of a "fractured" flag, quilted by one of their volunteers. She said it was meant to remind us of our Country's need of "TLC", hoped we would know we helped 'mend' this fractured need..

SKA thanked her for her nice note, and Gerry thanked Michael Shay for making it possible for her to be at the SKA meeting.

- **COMMUNITY COMMENTS/DISCUSSION** (20 guests)

Shawn Glen Pierson, an architect licensed in Washington DC, offered that the Fire Dept generally does not inspect but will review drawings. Inspecting depends on building's age, when codes changed, how much work is done on a single family residence, if the building has sprinklers, the number of floors in the building and building egress locations. A condo unit owner may want a consultant who could provide a report to show adherence to code. It is up to states and counties to adopt uniform codes. He suggested that SKA could get a free presentation from a company that sells the alarm systems and they could provide an overview of the codes in this jurisdiction.

- **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Catherine Luckner provided an update from the Planning services working on the Beach Park Plan design. Drainage plan must be done to mitigate Beach Rd flooding and must begin by Dec. 1, 2011 to maintain funding. The parking lot will remain open during the drainage work and

after work is completed, additional open but unpaved ground will be available.

- Joe Volpe gave an update on the Fire Marshall issue. If a homeowner goes through renovation in the home/condo or if there is new construction, the homeowner is required to bring the smoke alarms up to current code. When a residential home is remodeled, a smoke detector is required for each room being remodeled and County inspects. Fire Dept only inspects the condo unit but is not responsible for the tie-in. Nancy Deckard, from Gulf & Bay Condos, said residents there assumed their alarms were tied-in after each condo's alarms had been inspected individually to make sure they worked.
- There is no requirement to update the smoke detectors to all being wired together within a unit. If a building permit is pulled to modify that unit then the alarms must be brought up to code. All new buildings follow the code.
- The fire department only checks the smoke detectors essentially one time, at the end of the reconstruction and/or new construction.
- It does not appear to be a requirement that the alarms be wired into one central point within the building but most likely new construction is done this way.
- It apparently is up to the condo to verify that each unit is functioning properly with communication to the central panel, not the fire department.
- There is no direct connection from a fire alarm within a unit or home except through a monitoring company otherwise every time toast sets off an alarm a fire truck would arrive. Catherine Luckner confirmed details of the residential single family (RSF) rental ordinance. After a detailed conversation with zoning staff who sent clarification, the following was offered: the ordinance is same on the mainland and the barrier islands; the ordinance language is very clear as a home in RSF neighborhood can be rented for 30 days but not more than once in 30 days. The only difference in ordinance is in multi-family use(RMF) on barriers islands which allows for shorter rental periods. Advertising must disclose whether the rental house is located in a permitted area. Illegal rentals may create issues such as safety in residential neighborhoods and deprive the county of tourism tax. If you have Homestead Exemption, you may not rent commercially.
- Nancy Deckard attended the Mote Volunteer Board meeting and learned that they are about to lose their mobile classroom. She is asking for assistance or some linkage with providers who might help replace their Ford cab and trailer. The trailer has corrosion and can only travel locally. The grant and evaluation required to replace this truck was not submitted correctly.
- **ADJOURN** – President Luckner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Arias for Joyce Kouba
Secretary, Siesta Key Association