

# Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

## January 14, 2015 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President Dottie Moses at 7:00 PM at the Key Largo Library Community Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the attendees. The following Directors comprised a quorum: Burke Cannon, Ann Nickerson, Carole Rousseau, Kay Thacker, Pauline Klein, Emilie Stewart, Dottie Moses, and D. A. Aldridge

- Secretary's Report

The previous general meeting minutes [December 10, 2014] had been previously approved by the Executive Committee. These minutes can be found on the Federation's web site ([www.iklfha.org](http://www.iklfha.org)). There was no Secretary report.

- Treasurer's Report

Secretary Ann Nickerson reported that the Federation ended the year with \$2303.61 in the Treasury. As of 2015, a donation for publishing "Keys to Aging" book, supply costs, and seven members paying their dues has the Treasury at \$2611.

- Guest Speaker

Dottie introduced Patrick Saty, COO, of Energy3, LLC who spoke on the proposed handling of County yard waste by Energy3. Energy3 is offering to finance, build, and operate a new 100,000 ton/year gasification facility in Dade County. Mr. Saty explained the gasification process, its by-products, and why this process is ecologically superior to mulching. The gasification process is considered by the state to have such a low waste stream that the County would be given a 100% recycling credit for this type of waste. Questions were asked of Mr. Saty about reliability of the plant; variability of the County's yard waste stream by season; and where our yard waste would go prior to the completion of the gasification plant.

The Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] has asked the county staff to move forward in agreeing to have its 40,000 tons on yard waste be handled by Energy3. Ms. Rhonda Haag, Monroe County Sustainability Coordinator, answered questions about the Waste Management [the County's waste hauler] recent offer to lower its price to handle the County's yard waste. Ms. Haag also stated that if our yard waste is gasified it would assist in the County's efforts in meeting the State's 75% goal for recycling all waste by 2025.

### Committee Reports

1. External Affairs

- Height Limit and Off Shore Islands

The BOCC met earlier in the day for a final meeting to review the twenty year Comprehensive Plan prior to sending it to the state. At this transmittal meeting, the draft Plan still continued to have a 35 foot building height limit. A moratorium on any changes regarding Off Shore Islands was discussed and will be placed before the BOCC's monthly meeting for its approval. The County staff will be holding separate meetings on these two issues to give the public another opportunity to discuss height of buildings and Off Shore Islands.

## 2. Membership

Dues-Renewal notices have been emailed to all the Directors, along with the Federation's annual report. D. A. reminded the attendees that dues must be paid for the Directors to vote at next month's annual meeting. Directors were asked to join the Executive Committee since there are openings on it.

## 3. Environmental Affairs

- Everglades Coalition

Dottie talked about the annual Everglades Coalition Meeting held in Key Largo over the past weekend. The focus of the meeting was to discuss sending more water south through Lake Okeechobee and Everglades National Park. The importance of fresh water coming into Florida Bay is well understood by Florida Keys residents.

Dottie read a draft letter to be sent to the South Florida Water Management District asking it to purchase 46,800 acres located south of Lake Okeechobee to store water. The Directors voted unanimously to have the letter sent to the District.

- Energy3

There was a consensus among the Directors that they were in favor of the County finalizing its agreement with Energy3 to handle the County's yard waste. A letter will be written and sent to the BOCC stating our support for the County's initiative in pursuing this technology.

## Old Business

### 1. Waste Water Disparity Issue

There was no change but the issue is being closely monitored.

## New Business

### 1. Key Largo Columbus Day Powerboat Regatta

Dottie told the attendees about her concern at seeing a request for funding for a powerboat regatta in Key Largo at the last BOCC meeting. The BOCC agreed to table the matter until the next BOCC meeting.

She was able to obtain the application for funding by the Florida Powerboat Club, Inc. for the event and showed pictures of the planned events. She showed a video from its website for the Club's annual poker run in November 2014 showing over 100 powerboats rafted around and beached on Boca Grande Key in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge. This was after the Fish and Wildlife Service asked the Club to cancel its fun run to Boca Grande. The Club states that it told its members it was not holding the event.

Dottie gave a presentation to the Everglades Coalition about the event and contacting other organizations about the regatta. A draft letter to the BOCC was distributed that states the Federation is firmly against the Regatta. There was a unanimous vote to send the letter and copies sent to other state and local organizations.

2. Next Federation Meeting

Our next meeting will be the annual meeting, to be held on February 11, 2015. Mayor Danny Kohlage will be our speaker and he will be giving the "State of the County" presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Submitted by,

D. A. Aldridge  
Secretary