

Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

December 10, 2014 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, Steve Gibbs, Mark Tanner, Kay Thacker, Pauline Klein, Emilie Stewart, Dottie Moses, and Lee Huenniger.

- Secretary's Report

The previous general meeting minutes [November 12, 2014] had been previously approved by the Executive Committee. These minutes can be found on the Federation's web site (www.iklfha.org). There was no Secretary report.

- Treasurer's Report

There was no report.

- Guest Speaker

Dottie introduced Holly Raschein, our Florida State Representative. This was her second presentation to the Federation this year.

Ms. Raschein discussed the preparation for the Florida Keys Day. Community leaders will be joining her in Tallahassee on March 31, 2015 to promote the Florida Keys.

She spoke of the outcome of the past election. As a result of the elections, Florida has a Republican majority in the House and Senate and a Republican Governor. Seventy five percent of the Florida voters approved Amendment 1. This Water and Conservation amendment constitutionally requires funds be set aside to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands. The legislature must now decide on the rules about how the money from dock stamps will be spent. Amendment 2 failed by 57% of the vote. As this was such a close vote, it will likely be on the ballot again. Rather than a constitutional amendment, the legislature may decide to regulate medical marijuana through legislation in upcoming sessions. Amendment 3, proposed by the State legislature, would have required judicial vacancies be filled by the outgoing governor, did not pass. The election also resulted in a new congressman for Monroe County, Republican Carlos Curbelo, and new council members in Islamorada, Marathon, and Key Colony.

Ms. Raschein has been appointed to four House Committees: the Appropriations Committee, the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, the Regulatory Affairs Committee, and Highway & Waterways Safety Subcommittee [where she will be Vice Chairperson]. She has introduced two bills for the upcoming legislative session:

- A lesbian, gays, bi-sexual, and transgender anti-discrimination bill which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender
- Voluntary contributions for public education facilities bill

Ms. Raschein is working on a third bill [Florida Keys Environmental Stewardship Act] that would authorize money from Amendment 1 be directed towards Monroe County for wastewater and land conservation. The bill would require \$20-25 million a year for 20 years, or the life of the bill, be dedicated to Monroe County. These sponsored bills and Ms. Raschein activities can be found at

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4562&LegislativeTermId=86>

Ms. Raschein has held a public meeting about the disagreement over who owns the US 1 right of way – the county or FDOT. This issue will be brought up before the Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] at its February meeting by Commissioner Sylvia Murphy.

Old Business

1. Environmental
 - a. Comprehensive Plan
Dottie gave an update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The County has delayed action on two issues: height and off shore islands. These items will be processed as separate comprehensive plan amendments. There will be public meetings and these items will be heard before the Development Review Committee and the Planning Commission before the BOCC votes on them. The rest of the Plan will be voted on for transmittal at the next BOCC meeting on January 14, 2015.
 - b. Clean Up Key Largo
Dottie reported that the County Code Compliance staff expressed its ongoing commitment to the program and will continue to stay on top of it. Federation members commented on how much better Key Largo is looking as a consequence of its efforts.
 - c. Letter to BOCC
As previously approved at the last meeting, a letter was sent to the BOCC, along with letters from the Tavernier Community Association and the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce, asking the BOCC to push for a resolution on the disparity of waste water funding.
 - d. Flag for the library
Pauline Klein has offered to buy a new flag and pole for the Community Room at the library where we meet.

New Business

1. Sponsorship
Karen Beal and Diane Marshall have authored a book **Keys to Aging**, for Monroe County seniors. They proposed to provide the book for free to the community. After a presentation by Ms. Beal and Ms. Marshall, the members voted and approved to donate \$100 to assist in getting the book published.
2. Next Federation Meeting
Nominations will be taken at the next meeting for officers who will be elected at the Annual Meeting on February 11, 2015.

Energy3 will be the guest speaker at our next speaker. The County is currently doing due diligence on the its gasification method process that will handle the County's yard waste.

3. Dues
Renewal notices will be sent out this month. Membership dues must be paid to vote at the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Submitted by,

Mark Tanner

For D. A. Aldridge
Secretary