

Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

May 14, 2014 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President Dottie Moses at 6:01 PM at the Key Largo Library Community Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the 38 attendees.

Dottie acknowledged the following guests: Steve Gibbs, Margaret Blank, Sheriff Don Fanelli, Sheriff Alberto Ramirez, Dennis Caltagirone, Sarah Kahler, Kevin Madok, & Mayor Sylvia Murphy

Dottie announced the passing of Carol Ann Cefola, who had been a Federation Director for many years from Silver Shores.

Pauline Klein, who had announced her retirement from being Federation Secretary at the last Executive Board Meeting, was given a plaque thanking her for all her hard work over the years. D. A. Aldridge has agreed to complete Pauline's term of office.

Dottie announced that at the last Executive Committee meeting the February, March, and April General Meeting Minutes were approved. To aid in shortening our General Meetings, the Executive Committee will approve the General Meeting Minutes, have them posted on our web site, and have extra copies at the next meeting.

Treasurer Ann Nickerson announced that there was a balance of \$2151.95 in the Federation's checking account. Pauline Klein reported there was no change in the special fund balance.

The President then introduced Kirk Hoosac, Florida Department of Transportation District Landscape Architect, who is managing the three proposed landscaping projects that will encompass all of a Key Largo. Kirk stated that he had previously gave a presentation to the Tavernier Community Association on the proposed landscaping from MM 93 to Tavernier Creek Bridge. Tonight he had Harry Delton from Atkins Consultants present the plans for the landscaping from MM 106 to MM 100, which has a budget of \$900,000.

Harry stated that due to the constraint of power lines on both sides of the highway and no large vegetation in the median because of safety concerns, native Keys tree species have been selected since they only grow about 20 feet, have small trunks, and can handle high winds. They will be planted in groups to give a hammock or lush appearance. Existing trees will not be removed unless they are diseased or badly damaged. There will be a two year warranty on the plantings and FDOT will maintain the landscaping.

Work will begin around January, 2015 when the County finishes the Bayside Path. Kirk asked that the Federation contact Gus Pego if we wanted vegetation around the Key Largo sign since it was not in the plans.

Committee Reports

- External Affairs

Kay Thacker reported on 2 Blackwater Lane which was again before the County Planning Commission. The Commission voted 4-1, (with Ron Miller, the Commissioner from our district voting against) approving a minor conditional permit for the property. The owner is required to pay the approximately \$94,000 fines prior to selling the property.

She then asked John Hammerstrom, VP of Tavernier Community Association, to discuss the County's lack of using competitive bidding for the three solid waste activities (collection, transfer station, and haul out from the County). After some discussion, a draft letter to the County asking for competitive bidding was read by Kay and a vote was taken approving the sending of the letter.

Kay reminded the attendees about the Federation's efforts when the Big Chill site was being redeveloped for including affordable housing as a requirement for that project. We were successful in that endeavor. Although there is another hotel project planned in Key Largo, there is no County inclusionary housing requirement for commercial or transient residential developments. Kay read another draft letter requesting the County to change its policy to make it a requirement. The motion was passed to send that letter.

- Internal Affairs

Mark Tanner had no report on the web site. He did distribute some copies of a revised information brochure for comments.

- Membership

D. A. asked to table her discussion to the next meeting.

- Environmental

Dottie reported that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to sign a memorandum with FDOT on April 23, 2014 that will make the County responsible for the maintenance of the \$300,000 landscaping that FDOT financed and the County will install along the Bayside Path. She thanked Mayor Murphy for her efforts in getting this approved.

The Federation had sent a letter to the BOCC to ask that the draft Comprehensive Plan not eliminate a policy regarding signage. The BOCC agreed to keep that policy in the Plan. Dottie again thanked Mayor Murphy for her efforts.

Mayor Murphy commented that the Federation's request for a Clean Up Key Largo campaign was on the May 21, 2014 BOCC Agenda for 11 AM. The BOCC had received five letters supporting this initiative. Dottie also announced the FL Board of Realtors have voted for the initiative. Dottie talked about her and Kay's meeting with Sheriff Don Fanelli and his office's support for the Clean Up Key Largo campaign.

The Sheriff's office will be doing a clean up on Monday, June 9, 2014, starting at 5 PM, starting at Circle K MM106 and lasting 2 hours. The Federation members are asked to participate. Also, we will co-sponsor a clean up with the Sheriff's office in the future that will take place around KMart.

The topic of a mooring field in Buttonwood Sound began with Dottie reporting on her and D. A., as well as other Key Largo residents, attending the last County's Marine and Port Advisory Committee meeting. There was discussion about this meeting and the actions by the BOCC regarding a Request for Qualifications to prepare for a study on permitting a mooring field in Buttonwood. Questions were asked about the free pump out services available in Key Largo and the economic costs to the residents for boaters who would be using a future mooring field versus economic gain to a few businesses. Dottie announced that she had contacted the State Fish and Wildlife office that had done the Pilot Mooring Study report and they have agreed to send a speaker to our June meeting.

- Boat Hoists

Burke Cannon reported that Michael Roberts, the County Planner, had not had time to work on rewriting the County's code on boat lifts due to his working on the draft Comp Plan and the loss of staff. The Federation has been trying to get the County staff to publish a draft of the code for a year. Dottie asked Burke to keep pushing the staff since the lack of an ordinance was negatively impacting a number of our association members.

New Business

1. It was recommended that we ask our State Representative Holly Raschein to a meeting to give us a report on what occurred during this last legislative session. The President agreed to invite her.
2. The Sanctuary Association representative asked who he could contact about a U-turn ban that FDOT has put in place with the repaving. Dottie offered to give him the name and phone number of an FDOT official.
3. The attendees were reminded that the Federation was co-sponsoring with the Tavernier Community Association a political forum on July 16, 2014 at 7 PM at the Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

Submitted by,

D. A. Aldridge