

Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowner Associations

July 9, 2014 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President Dottie Moses at 7:05 PM at the Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the 125 attendees.

Prior to the introduction of the speakers, Dottie asked for the directors to vote on a letter being sent to the County Commission requesting that the proposed Comprehensive Plan not be changed to allow building heights greater than 35 feet. This was passed by unanimous vote.

Dottie introduced Captain Tom Shipp of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission who is the point of contact for the State's Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program. This Program, begun in 2011 and recently extended to 2017, was designed to assist local towns and counties in developing ordinances for existing mooring fields. Monroe County was and continues to be one of the five areas in this State Program. The County has passed a mooring field ordinance but it only pertains to the existing mooring fields in Key West and Marathon. Few of the attendees were aware of the Program and the County's participation in it due to these fields being over 50 miles away. This was the second meeting held by Captain Shipp in Key Largo, with the first on June 7, 2011, to discuss the Pilot Program.

Rich Jones, Senior Administrator of Marine Resources, gave a presentation on the history of the County's efforts in developing mooring fields. The County requested that Buttonwood Sound be included in the Pilot Program as a managed mooring zone due to the complaints of the residents at the June 2011 meeting but the State did not approve its inclusion since the Program was designed for existing mooring fields. Rich discussed the Marine & Port Advisory Committee activities, the hiring of a consultant to study potential mooring sites, and the Board of County Commissioner's decision to hire a consultant to design and permit a mooring field at Buttonwood Sound.

Rich then reported on a survey he conducted on June 23, 2014 of Buttonwood Sound. There were 23 vessels anchored in the Sound, many in poor condition, and most moored to unpermitted debris. He then showed a diagram of a Helical Rock Anchor, that is being used in Key West and Boot Key mooring fields, to illustrate what type of mooring would be used if a mooring field were developed in Buttonwood Sound.

After his presentation, there began an hour of questions and answers. These questions were primarily answered by Rich but Christine Hurley, Division Director of Growth Management, also addressed some of the questions. A number of people expressed their displeasure with having a mooring field in Buttonwood Bay. Vice President of External Affairs Kay Thacker read part of an email sent by Jim Saunders, manager of Point of View Recreational Vehicle Park [which was identified as one of the potential upland services providers]. He wrote that the Park would not provide on-shore services to a mooring field. The owner of Dream Bay Resort, another potential provider, stated that she did not have the facilities to support more than a few anchored boats. Reinhard Schaupp, the owner of Gilbert's Resort at Jewfish Creek, said he was willing to have a mooring field. This site had been excluded by the County from further study.

The issue of sea grass, poor water circulation in the Bay, and the interference of regattas sponsored by the Upper Keys Sailing Club were raised by speakers when they spoke strongly against a Buttonwood mooring field.

Also attending was Commissioner George Neugent and he was asked to comment on a Buttonwood mooring field. After talking about making mooring fields available to cruising boaters and the County being a desirable place for boaters, he stated that he would not support a Buttonwood Bay mooring field without upland services.

Old Business

- Political Candidate Forum
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.
- Clean Up of Tradewinds Shopping Plaza on June 23, 2014
Dottie announced that almost 2 tons of trash and debris was collected by the following groups in conjunction with the Federation: Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Publix [provided water and snacks], Kmart [provided garbage bags]. Kimco Realty, Florida Keys Scenic Corridor Alliance, and Monroe County Public Works.
- The Federation's checking account has a balance of \$2303.25.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Submitted by,

D. A. Aldridge
Secretary