

Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

March 11, 2015 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President Dottie Moses at 7:06 PM at the Key Largo Cultural Center. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the attendees. The following Directors comprised a quorum: Burke Cannon, Ann Nickerson, David Leahy, Kay Thacker, Pauline Klein, Steve Gibbs, Dottie Moses, Linda Perloff, Lee Huenniger, John Hammerstrom, Fred Feldman, and D. A. Aldridge. Guests present included, Kevin Madok; Erin Deady; Kevin Wilson; Bob Ward; Rhonda Haag; Robby Majeska; Paul Christian; and Elizabeth and Richard Greco from John Hammerstrom HOA

- Awards

Dottie presented to George McHugh (the President of The Friends of the K.L. Library) a new American Flag that was purchased by the Federation with a generous donation given by Pauline Klein. The flag was given in appreciation for the use of the Key Largo Library Community Room.

Dottie also presented a plaque to DA Aldridge from the IKLFHA for her much appreciated work as Federation Secretary this past year. DA will be living out of the country for the next year.

- Guest Speaker

Dottie introduced Mayor Danny Kolhage and County Administrator Roman Gastesi. Two booklets were made available to members: *Fiscal Year 2015 Adopted Budget in Brief* and *Monroe County 2014/2015 State of the County*. The county has copies of these books for anyone who would like one.

Mayor Kolhage presented a slide show on the county budget. The total budget for FY 2015 is \$441,711,639 of which \$78,751,615 (18%) comes from property taxes. Some expenditures included \$186 million for the Cudjoe Regional Wastewater System. County projects in the Key Largo area include the purchase of Rowell's Marina, canal restoration in Sexton Cove, repaving of streets in Sexton Cove and Lake Surprise, a Bayside Bike and Shared Use Path and Bike lanes on County Road 905.

A question and answer session followed.

- Members were surprised to learn that the county owns sections of streets & bridges in the City of Key West that they are obligated to maintain. When asked why, Kevin explained that this was set up 100 years ago and continues today.
- Dottie reminded Roman that he had asked Key Largo voters to support the continuation of the 1% infrastructure sales tax so the county could fund wastewater and roads so why is there such a large difference between infrastructure sales tax spent on Key Largo wastewater and wastewater projects in the rest of unincorporated Monroe County? Mr Gastesi said there is a proposal on the table to address this.

- Burke asked how the county arrived at the \$4300 EDU assessment for non KLWTD customers. It was completely arbitrary it turns out.
 - Dottie asked when Key Largo Park and Sunset Waterways would be repaved. Kevin Wilson advised that the road repaving program has been extended from 5 years to 7 years. Some neighborhoods in Key Largo will only be patched while all roads in the Cudjoe wastewater area will be repaved.
 - DA asked about affordable housing. Mayor Kolhage advised there were a total of 700 available ROGOs for affordable housing.
 - Dottie stated that the number one complaint she hears from HOAs is how frustrated they are with Code Enforcement. Is the problem understaffing? Several citizens shared their frustration with the slowness of code enforcement. Some cases are years old and not yet resolved. Mayor Kolhage was sympathetic and said he would consider solutions.
 - DA asked if the county would ever address the increase in tourists and the congested traffic and extra stress on our county services that ensues. Mayor Kolhage stated that the TDC spends \$30 million a year to bring tourists here and “we have chosen the business we are in”.
 - Mayor Kolhage advised that the county would take note of all our concerns and review them.
- Treasurer’s Report
Secretary Ann Nickerson reported the Treasury had \$3181.00. Kay made a motion to accept, Dottie 2nd it and the motion passed.
 - Secretary’s Report
As part of the Federation’s efforts to reduce paper, minutes can be found on the Federation’s website (www.iklfha.org).
Dottie announced Adopt –A- Highway brochures for consideration by HOAs.
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/statemaintenanceoffice/AAHBrochure%2002-10-09.pdf>
Ann Nickerson has recruited Melissa Iglesias to be the Federation Secretary.

Committee Reports

1. External Affairs

- A The Planning Commission approved a zoning change from URM for 20 mobile homes to UR for 50 market rate and affordable housing units. The proposed development is on US 1, MM98, Oceanside across from the Tom Thumb store. Five parcels are to be developed for housing. No plans have been submitted to the county. The Federation will be monitoring this development.

B Dottie, DA, and Kay attended the DAC V TDC meeting. The TDC says illegal rentals are not paying bed tax and would like the county to pursue this tax evasion. Harold Wheeler advised that there is no 5 year limit for funding events as was suggested at our last Federation meeting. TDC felt blindsided by our protest of the Offshore Power boat races and asked that we come to meetings and share our concerns before taking it the BOCC. But the Federation board has found there are no minutes available on the TDC website nor any back up to the agenda so it is not very transparent as to what they are discussing or voting on.

2. Membership

Ann Nickerson had John Hammerstrom introduce the new Coral Coast Alternate Director, Elizabeth Greco and her husband Richard. They have recently moved to the Keys and have lived in London and Washington DC in the past.

3. Environmental Affairs

A. Dottie, DA and Kay attended a Clean Up Key Largo update meeting with Code, FDOT and ICA. Out of 45 permits applied for to get legal signs, 30 are still pending. Wanda will go before the BOCC in June to give her report on the CUKL initiative.

B. Dottie and DA met with the new Key Largo Chamber president Lacey Ekberg. Lacey shared her ideas about improving the appearance of the highway. Adopt A Highway and Got Your Bags literature was given to Lacey. In a follow up conversation with Lacey, she said the Chamber Visitor Center is now a bag free zone.

C. Florida House Bill 661 and Senate Bill 966 allows certain municipalities to establish a pilot program for regulating plastic bags. This might help reduce trash along our highways and in our waterways. Dottie encouraged members and guests to contact Representative Holly Raschein and Senator Dwight Bullard and ask them to support these bills.

D. The State needs to allocate funds to buy sugar land in EAA before the end of the legislative session. The Federation has already sent a letter of support. All need to remind the legislators of Amend 1 and that 75% of voters support buying conservation lands.

Old Business

1. Dottie informed the attendees that the Executive board has narrowed down the LOGO choices to two possibilities. She hopes to bring a vote to the membership next month.

2. The Sanctuary Advisory Council may have a discussion about commercially advertised on-the-water events such as the offshore power boat races by including it on their June agenda.
3. Burke reported that the KLWTD has reviewed the floor plans for their new building. Their new board meeting room may be a possible location for Federation meetings.

New Business

1. Native Plant Day will be held at Pennekamp on Saturday Mar 21 from 9 AM – 1 PM. They will be giving away free native plants with free entrance into the park.
2. The next Federation meeting will be held on April 8, 2015 – Shelly Krueger, Will speak about Florida Keys Water Watch, a citizen water monitoring program

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM