



**“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead**

Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

January 13, 2016 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 following Directors were in attendance: Burke Cannon, Ann Nickerson, Pauline Klein, David Leahy, Laura Heinrich, Lee Huenniger and Kevin Madok (Sr. Director of Strategic Planning Monroe County)

Dottie led Pledge of Allegiance

President Dottie Moses introduced guest.

Stephanie Kaple and Laurie Scop with the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition(FKOC)

Stephanie has been with FKOC for 13 years and is presently their Chief Operating Officer. Laurie is an Americorp Vista Volunteer who is here to help establish an Upper Keys Outreach office.

FKOC is a 25 year old agency originally located in Key West. They were continually getting calls for assistance from the Upper Keys and so a \$60,000 grant was applied for and awarded from the Office of Homelessness to be used exclusively in the Upper Keys.

FKOC provides assistance for a variety of things including rent, uniforms, prescriptions, housing, laundry, and showers. They are working with local churches who are involved with the homeless. They try to help people before they fall into homelessness. Emergency homeless shelters are only available in Key West and Miami-Dade and it is not usually allowed to transfer homeless from one place to another. The challenge in the Upper Keys is there is no affordable housing. The state of Florida provides little to no mental health care.

A national “Point In Time” count takes place every year to identify the number of homeless and other information. If anyone would like to help with this count on Jan 27, contact Laurie Scop at FKOC_SCOP@comcast.net

Treasurer’s Report - Ann -\$2936.90 checking

Secretary’s Report – Dottie – Nov minutes are on IKLFHA.org website. Dec minutes have not yet been approved.

Agenda items – Dottie

- Membership Dues are due, look for invoices in the mail
- Annual Meeting next month, candidates are needed for the Executive Committee. Please help with nominations.
- Bayside Path – Missing section in front of Wendy’s completed.
- Hotel Unit Allocation Rule – BOCC will discuss this item at meeting. Federation members discussed how they are opposed to more development and more transient units for more visitors. Quality of life at risk as experienced these past few weeks with traffic and accidents.
- Dredging Canals with seagrass and hardbottoms – Federation to monitor closely the language of new amendment so that no expanded dredging is intentionally or unintentionally allowed.
- TDC tax – the state legislature is discussing a proposal to allow 10% of TDC taxes to go to law enforcement instead of advertising. NJ did this when they were overwhelmed with tourists. The Sheriff’s Association is in favor. The Federation membership likes this idea.
- One Cent Fire Sales Tax – the county proposes to do away with fire district property taxes and impose an additional penny sales tax instead. It is thought that this would transfer a portion of the taxes from the property owners to the visitors. It is not known what the KL Fire District nor the municipalities think of this. Burke will enquire and report back. Some members worry it will just be another tax and that there will ultimately be no lowering of property taxes as it will just be shifted to some other purpose like the Lottery and school tax bait and switch.
- Single Member District Voting - A discussion was held on this concept. Key West operates this way and they would like to do away with it. Why give up one’s right to vote for all 5 commissioners? The BOCC should be working together to do what’s best for the entire Keys not just their district. It might fractionalize the county. Maybe invite a speaker to further discuss.
- Candidate Forums – The Federation will partner with TCA and hold candidate forums later in the year for the Primary and the General elections.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rowell’s Marina – Dottie read a letter from Roman who responded to the Federation’s letter asking for public access to Rowell’s. He will discuss with staff and BOCC.

Next Meeting is Feb 10, 2016 – Executive Committee board elections will be held. Members must be current with their dues to vote.

Ann – motion to adjourn. Lee second. Passed. 8:30 PM