



**“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

March 9, 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, Laura Heinrich, Lee Huenniger, Patti Spires, Pauline Klein. We did not have a quorum. Guests in attendance were Trish Docherty-Gibson (running for public defender in Key West), Robby Majeska (running for County Commission), Janet Wood (running for Mosquito Control Board). Dottie led Pledge of Allegiance

- President Dottie Moses introduced the guest speaker:
- Mark Porter – Superintendent of Schools Monroe County School District
Dr. Porter requested support for renewal of the ½ mill flexible spending referendum. The current ½ mill generates \$11.3 million or a little over 12% of the District’s revenues and is used for operations – teachers, school nurses, and classroom materials. There is no impact on individual tax bills – only on how and where the school district can use the revenue.
Teacher salaries are 75-80% of the budget and as of last year, Monroe County teachers had the highest average and median salaries in the State.
Capital projects will be funded from the General Fund and the sales tax for capital projects. Plantation Key School is the current project and is being built for more capacity than current enrollment. The design is to fit the environment and be a “pared back” state of the art school.
Affordable housing for teachers and school personnel continues to be a problem across the Keys.
- Treasurer’s Report - Ann Nickerson – \$3956.07 checking. All but two HOAs have paid their membership fees.
- Secretary’s Report – Laura Heinrich – Minutes are available at IKLFHA.ORG
- President’s Report – Dottie Moses
 - Kay Thacker lost her battle with cancer on Feb 19, Dottie & Burke spoke at her memorial service along with a dozen other speakers. Pauline, Ann, and Linda were also in attendance. About 150 people attended her service. The Federation

has lost one of our most ferocious and dedicated members. We shall all miss her energy and commitment dearly.

- 3 for 1 Hotel Unit Allocation Rule – Marathon had a resolution at their council meeting, opposing the 3 for 1 rule, but decided to wait until they see the states modifications before moving forward on their resolution.
- On Wed Feb 24, Dottie and Burke attended a PC mtg where the new height increase proposal was approved by the PC – 38’ for new development and 40’ for redevelopment. This height issue will now go to the BOCC. Do we want to write a letter expressing our opposition to height increases?
- Also a liquor license was approved for Playa Largo Resort and it was discussed that their restaurants and facilities are for registered guests only and not to be open to the public as they will not have enough parking. An earlier variance had been granted to allow for less parking if not open to the public. They intend to become a site for 1-2 “destination weddings” per week and parking will be a problem to solve. FDOT is requiring they have a deceleration lane. There are to be no jet skis. The cottage by the road is to be for employees but is advertised on their website as a rental for a 3 bedroom beach house.
- Dottie wrote a letter to the TDC expressing the Federation member’s concerns about the negative impacts of the KL Stone Crab Festival as was discussed at our last meeting. Harold Wheeler shared it with the DAC V board members at their Mar 1 meeting.
- On Mar 1 Dottie attended the Special BOCC meeting where the new LDRs were reviewed. There will be a 2nd reading of the new LDRs on Apr 13.
- On Mar 2 Dottie attended the FKNMS WQPP Steering Committee meeting where a presentation was given on the county Canal Restoraton Projects. The Sexton Cove canal has been completed and is very successful. The water quality has been remarkably improved and the canal bottom is already growing aquatic vegetation. Fish have also been seen in the canal. The county is moving forward with more demonstration canals. Several techniques have worked. There will be a canal restoration workshop on Mon. April 11 at the Marathon Government Center 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- Lee Heunniger introduced Wynken, Blynken & Nod’s new Director, Patti Spires. She will be replacing Ray Thaler.

Announcements

- Florida Keys Wildlife Refuges Outdoor Fest
Schedule of activities Wed. March 16 – Tues Mar 22, 2016
Guided nature walks, historical bike rides, butterfly tour, nature photography, backcountry kayak excursions, kids crafts, Saturday family-friendly wildlife fair, and much more! In Key Largo at the Crocodile Lake NMR and Big Pine Key at the Key Deer NWR! Info at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/crocodilelake>
- Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center will be holding an **Ocean Life Series lecture** at the Murray Nelson Government Center on Friday Mar 18, 6:00 PM - Meet and Greet, 7:00 PM – Lecture. The lecture will be on **Endangered Status of Sea Turtles Globally and in the Florida Keys:** by Sandy Williams from, Save-A-Turtle and Allison Estape with the Sea Turtle Nesting Beach Monitoring Program.

The meeting was adjourned.