



**“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

September 14, 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, Laura Heinrich, Linda Perloff, Lee Huinniger

Dottie led the Pledge of Allegiance

Letter to BOCC requesting support to Code Compliance to address illegal short term rentals was read and approved.

President Dottie Moses introduced the **guest speaker:**
Monroe County Commissioner – Sylvia Murphy

- Newly built Paradise Homes for elderly (62+) by the Gorman Company now taking applications.
- The county has spent on the Upper Keys \$49 million
 - Affordable housing – helped with land
 - Cudjoe all paid for and almost completed
 - Plantation Key Courthouse \$25-28 million
 - Magnolia Public Works bldg. \$1.2 million
 - Rowells Marina and Park \$5million
 - Bike lanes \$3.6 million
 - Adam Waterway’s Pedestrian Bridge \$1.1 million
 - Bayside Path \$2.6 million paid with impact funds
- Canal Restoration Pilot Program \$5 million, next \$2 million will include Hammer Point canal.
- Installing “Toll by Plate” on Card Sound in 2017
- Bernstein Park being elevated due to flooding
- Higgs Beach being renovated
- Big Pine Key swimming pool halted due to deer
- FPL’s Turkey Point pollution of Biscayne Bay – worried about it, although legislature gave FPL a timeline.
- Sylvia does 1 on 1 meetings about problems, not big projects
- Keeps eye on jet ski beach and roadside parks
- Commission is doing well – finished budget, insurance is going up

- **Questions:**

- Why is US1 not a toll road? A=not enough \$ to warrant
- Disposition of mattress firm property (by Burger King)?
- What about affordable housing? A=meeting to discuss findings of Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, have to get handle on transient rentals.
- How to eliminate plastic bags? A=can't ban due to Rick Scott rule
- Short term rentals? A=can't change rules
- Budget hearing? A=Does not like to encumber more than 50% of Infrastructure Sales Tax (IST) to debt service. Receiving \$21 million a year. Kevin Madok relayed that the debt service is presently at 60% of IST.
- IST used for capital projects. Money must be spent on things that last for 5 years. Known as 304 fund or 1cent sales tax, state statute decides on how \$ can be used.
- Taxes? A=going up next year.
- Combining Key Largo and Tavernier fire districts?=A has gone by the wayside. Three things in play being investigated by lawyers
- Genetically altered mosquitos? A=decided by voters (another possible treatment known as Wolbachia being considered)
- Code enforcement? A=Cynthia McPherson handles
- Commissioner Bob Thomas with the Key Largo Fire Dept asked why \$350,000 of IST funds that was originally agreed upon for the purchase of a Key Largo Fire truck has been lowered to \$150,000.
- Upper Keys Trauma Care District is going out of business due to "not needed anymore"

Treasurer's Report: \$77.89 on food for Primary Forum, \$3455.31 balance

President's Report: (from General Meeting Agenda)

- TDC - \$55 million budget, \$586 thousand of potential capital projects money was rolled over to advertising
- Playa Largo needs a deceleration lane
- Key Largo Fire and EMS District raising our fire tax millage rate from .8223 to .9000
- Mosquito Control will vote tonight on whether to raise property taxes to pay for new \$4.5 million building from .50 to .66 millage rate. They need a 4/5 vote to pass
- Federation website – was hacked. Webhosting service is working on it
- Rowell's Waterfront Park – open to the public with minimal improvements. Not in county budget yet for further development. There is an FDOT grant to add parking and bathrooms. The bid has not yet been awarded
- Playa Largo resort now open. Only registered guests allowed to use property due to shortage of parking spaces. Next door residents (Rock Harbor condos) complained of noise coming from air condition handlers. Manager said he would look into it.

Announcements:

- The Florida Keys Scenic Corridor Alliance, in partnership with the Ocean Conservancy and Adopt a Highway, are asking for volunteers to participate in the International Coastal clean-up on Sept. 17.
<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/clean-up-locations.html>
- Next meeting – Candidate Forum on Thursday, Oct.6 at KL Government Center