



**“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

May 11, 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, Laura Heinrich, Dottie Moses, Jim Duquesnel, Pauline Klein, Lee Huenniger, Capt Jax, Steve Gibbs, and Linda Perloff

Dottie led Pledge of Allegiance

President Dottie Moses introduced guest speaker – **Heather Carruthers, Mayor of Monroe County** - State of the County

- **What the County Does**
 - \$417 million budget, only 77,000 permanent residents and must provide services for 150-160 thousand residents
 - 28% is capital expense, the rest is operations, only ½ from taxes, rest from bonds, gas tax, building department. Also seeks outside funding, e.g. BP Oil Spill and illegal rentals
 - Fiscal state is good – need 4-6 months in reserves
- **Comprehensive Plan** – completed in 2015 is a framework for everything
 - Natural environment – sewer entire keys, 6500 homes to go. Wastewater treatment
 - Composting palm fronds via gasification is 2 ½ years out
 - Climate change – how to deal with financial risk of changes
 - Sustainability action plan
 - Mapping whole keys for sea level rise
 - Canal restoration – 500 canals, matching technology to kind of canal
 - Florida Keys Stewardship Act - \$5 million set aside for land acquisition. 6,000 parcels that are undeveloped. (many questions and discussion on this issue i.e. definition of a “lot”, houses on non-compliant parcels, building permits denied)
 - Affordable housing – Advisory committee to provide recommendations by end of summer. Working with developers, considering forgiving permit fees, increasing density. All “affordable” ROGOs available now. County not supportive of fractional ROGOs

- Capital projects – Card Sound Road bridge, Sugar Loaf bike path and bridge, Bayside shared use path, Public Safety Training Academy, County buildings, Customs facility, Plantation Key buildings.
- National Flood Insurance/FEMA – advocating different rating system, Florida is biggest player, possible 15% decrease in rates
- **Services**
 - Veterans services- 10,000 veterans in Monroe, 3,200 helped this year.
 - Library services - most used service of all services provided - computers, software, digital collection
 - Trauma Star – free for residents
 - Trash collections (improved when brought in house)
 - Nutrition (funding non-profits) meals
 - Hospice, domestic abuse, homeless (\$7 million on services every year, includes incarceration @\$89/day)
 - Looking for other ways to fund social services

Comments:

Need to focus on residents vs. tourists

Enforce illegal rentals (1000 ads on line for vacation rentals)

Need code enforcement on weekends

Why is county allowing installation of plants that are on the exotic plant removal list?

Following applause for the presentation, people began to leave and the remainder of the meeting was postponed.

Minutes submitted by Laura Heinrich