

Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

April 8, 2015 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President Dottie Moses at 7:05 PM at the Key Largo Library Community Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the attendees. The following Directors comprised a quorum: Burke Cannon, Ann Nickerson, Pauline Klein, Emilie Stewart, Dottie Moses, Linda Perloff. Guests present: Robby Majeska.

- Guest Speaker

Dottie introduced Shelly Krueger of Florida Keys Water Watch. Shelly explained the causes of water quality degradation in our near shore water and canals. Dredge and fill activity along with direct and indirect polluting have resulted in many of our canals being in violation of state water quality standards. A Keys Wide Canal Study was done. 502 canals were identified, tested and rated. 131 were identified as poor and 180 as fair. As a consequence of these findings, a Canal Restoration Demonstration Project was initiated and 5 canals have been funded to be restored through a variety of techniques. If successful, they will be used as a model for future canal restoration projects. Funding has yet to be determined for these future projects.

Shelly gave advise on how property owners can help improve their canals by using Best Management Practices which included not using pesticides, fertilizers, and chemicals near shorelines. Use native landscaping. Do not blow leaves in canal. Do not throw fish carcasses in the canals. Be careful what boat cleaning products you use near canals.

Anyone can see the data collected on their canal along with its rating by using Google Earth along with the canal data files. See links below.

Florida Keys Water Watch is offering a workshop to train citizens on how to test their own canals and collect data to determine the health of their canal. Testing kits will be provided. Contact Shelly if you or your neighbors are interested in participating.

This is the link to Shelly's presentation:

<http://fl-monroecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/8915>

More information on canals can be found here:

<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=598>

Shelly would be happy to answer any questions or help you with the Google Earth data files. Her contact information:

Shelly Krueger
Office 305-292-4502
Mobile 305-393-4063
Krueger-Shelly@MonroeCounty-FL.gov

Treasurer's Report

Secretary Ann Nickerson reported the Treasury had \$3192.90.

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).

Committee Reports

1. President's Report

A Crosswalk - RS&H is doing a Road Safety Audit on all crosswalks in the Keys. Dottie attended a meeting on Mar 16 with other stakeholders including the Sheriff's Office, FDOT and the Fla Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. From 2005-2013, before the MM 100 crosswalk was installed, there were 6 pedestrian and bicycle deaths in the vicinity of the crosswalk. The results of the safety study since the crosswalk went in are not yet available.

B Height Limits – Dottie attended a DRC meeting on Mar 24 for first public hearing on rather to allow for height limits above 35'. Issues included:

- Elevation of existing buildings for additional freeboard to help mitigate flood insurance.
- Elevation of new construction for flood mitigation.
- Elevate for affordable housing to allow for additional units.
- Elevate for features in Ocean Reef only.
- Maintain and/or elevate existing non-conforming buildings over 35' in the event of involuntary replacement.

There will be additional public hearings on this issue. The next meeting is May 26.

C Florida Keys Days – Dottie attended Florida Keys Day on Mar 31 in Tallahassee. This event was put together by Rep. Holly Raschein. Over 100 representatives from the Florida Keys met with a variety of department heads from FDOT, DEP Education, DEO, EMO, FWC, Adam Putnam, Pam Bondi, and Senator Dwight Bullard. County efforts to obtain Amend 1 money for purchase of residential lots in the Keys after build out was not very hopeful, nor were efforts to purchase Sugar lands in the EAA. Cabinet heads want to spend Amend 1 on land management and finishing existing Everglades projects already engineered in the Central Everglades Restoration Plan. It is still a possibility that the Keys will get wastewater money. DEO still identifies Monroe County as needing to maintain a slow growth strategy due to our 24 hr evacuation window. FDOT has the largest budget ever, \$10 billion has been budgeted to change Florida with better ports, improved roads and bridges, and improve roads and trails for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. Florida has the highest accident rate for pedestrians and bicyclists and FDOT

wants to change that. All road improvement projects are required to include landscaping.

- D The upcoming BOCC meeting on Apr 15 includes
H-9 Approval of Cynthia McPherson as new Senior Director of Code Compliance.
K-1 Approval to support local municipalities in reducing plastic bags by a resolution in support of state legislation such as SB 966 and HB 661.
- E A BOCC Budget meeting was held Apr 8
- F Road Paving – Neighborhoods such as Key Largo Park and Sunset Waterways have had some success in getting their poorly patched roads repaired by KLWTD and FKAA. They are hopeful to be resurfaced as part of the county's road paving program.

Old Business

1. Waste water Update – Burke advised that he and Dottie would be attending a meeting at the KLWTD to discuss an ILA between the county and the District to help reduce wastewater rates.
Robby Majeska spoke on his concerns about the difference in assessments between KLWTD ratepayers and county wastewater ratepayers. He would like to see the county assess an additional \$500 to homeowners for wastewater. He says we paid 51% of the cost of our plant while the county homeowners only paid 24% for theirs. Cudjoe Regional has cost \$190 million to date.
2. The Sanctuary Advisory Council may have a discussion about commercially advertised on-the-water events such as offshore power boat races on their June agenda.
3. Logo – Dottie hopes to have a choice of LOGOs available at the next meeting.
4. Adopt –A- Highway – Dottie encourages HOAs to consider adopting a section of the highway where it fronts their neighborhoods.
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/statemaintenanceoffice/AAHBrochure%2002-10-09.pdf>

Announcements

1. The Sheriff's Office is doing a roadside clean up on Apr 14 Tuesday 9 AM at Magnolia and US1. Please consider helping in Cleaning Up Key Largo.

Next Meeting - May 13, 2015 – Phil Goodman will speak about Genetically Modified Mosquitoes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM