

Minutes UCCA Meeting October 28, 2012, 11:00am
Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Present were V.Pres. Ann Murphy, Sec. Sue Ann Cousar, Steve Muse, Vicki Kirsh, (Directors Jackie Byrnes, Katie Walsh by phone), absent Arthur Mason, Tom Palazzo, and Fran DeTure. Also present Kristie Anders, Tim Higgins, Bob Kinniry, Gene Murphy, Elaine Schall, Georgia Murphy, Larry Diorio, Hugh & Norma Phelps, Ron & Helen Glick, Joanne Damico, Bruce & Anne Carey.

Call to Order and welcome: Ann Murphy

Minutes of April 15, 2012, meeting approved

Treasurer's Report: Checking Acct. \$8,912.51; Money Market Acct. \$30,787.32; CD's \$45,000 + int. Steve moved, Vicki 2nd. to approve Treasurer's report, all in favor.

Report of Bylaws revisions - Sue Ann Cousar: All changes to the UCCA Bylaws passed by mail ballot and they read:
3.2 Membership is for the calendar year and may be obtained upon payment of the annual dues. 69 approve, 0 oppose
5.2 Directors are elected in December by majority vote of responding members. 63 approve, 6 oppose
6 OFFICERS: Officers of the UCCA shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Communications Secretary, and Treasurer. 68 approve, 1 oppose
8 BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS: Changes and amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by the membership by online or mail ballot. 61 approve, 8 oppose.

Nominating Committee will be Steve Muse and Jackie Byrnes. They will prepare information on nomination process. Ann Murphy's and Sue Ann Cousar's three-year term and Katie Walsh's one year completion of Joel Halberstadt's term are coming to a close and all three have agreed to put their names forward for re-election. Other nominations are encouraged.

Golf Cart Abuse Program: Bryan Brillhart not present so Sue Ann read his email and briefly explained cart abuse program. The more people that participate, the more effective the program can be. Information available at www.ncicr.com. Suggestion was made that Sue Ann send out Bryan's email to everyone.

Community Panel - Kristie Anders: The Panel needs to address electric carts' size, weight, and speed and it has gone back to a sub-committee. Likewise the subject of outside lighting has gone back, but in general, lighting fixtures should aim light down. Panel is over budget because they have had twice as many meetings as expected. There is a new initiative made of 80 people, mainly developers, who want to streamline the application process for construction in Lee County and want one statement to serve all communities. All the customizations we have made for Upper Captiva would be lost. The new proposed Staff language violates the intent of the Community Plan. Eg. Currently there is a requirement to have an info meeting on the Island before the Hearing in town to be able to inform Island residents. The County language does not specifically require that it be held on Upper Captiva Island. Horizon Council voted 79 to 1 to streamline the process. Another example: If the County Staff gave an opinion, but later another government body pointed out other facts that affected the rezoning request, the Staff would not be able to change their opinion. Our Goal 25 is going to become Goal 4, along with every community plan. Another problem: Instead of giving us a Document Clearing House they say check the County website, where it is very difficult to find what we need. We aren't being informed. If UCCA thinks the Panel is important enough, we could budget some funds to help the Panel.

NCCF- North Captiva Conservation Fund - Kristie: Skinners donated the money off the Barnacle Phil's Restaurant walls for habitat restoration and habitat research on State Park land. \$200 private donations and Bench project money of \$3,150 have been received. Kristie has agreement with Skinners that they are going to work to wipe out Brazilian Pepper. Biologists have been coming up here identifying snakes and we have half dozen other endangered species. The NCCF money has been rolled over every year for NC. Kristie spends time on Upper Captiva that Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation [SCCF] pays her for - time that is not being reimbursed. So there are problems when people say how NCCF money should be spent, but Kristie spent 80hrs on Kinsey Inn and 40 hrs on Marina and SCCF was not reimbursed. Kristie still spends many hours of her own time and money to answer needs and requests. To make habitat better for Indigo snakes, we need to get rid of B.Pepper which makes undergrowth so thick that Indigo snakes have to go into the road to sun themselves.

If you see an Indigo snake, call Scott Gilbert 472-0788, or Kristie or Red, or SCCF 472-2533. The pit tag that is planted in Indigo snakes is for the purpose of identifying our Indigos as belonging to Upper Captiva. Harrassing gopher tortoises is illegal. [To report a wildlife violation phone Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC(3922), or text to Tip@MyFWC.com, or on a cell phone *FWC or #FWC depending on the service. This info will be added to the "Welcome" sheet that Island visitors receive.]

A dead bobcat was found on State land without a head, a few weeks later there were emaciated bobcat babies. If a mother is dead, the kittens are not learning to hunt. CROW said if they are brought to them, they would rejuvenate the bobcats, put them with another group to learn, then capture and release back on Upper Captiva. There are stories of people baiting bobcats so they can take pictures or show their family. Upper Captiva and Cayo Costa are the only

islands left with habitat for wild animals. Upper Cap is the last habitat for Indigo snakes. Kristie has a gopher tortoise sign ready to make and is working on Indigo snake sign.

Fire Departement - Tim Higgins: Much has changed in last year. Fire Station Addition has been voted down but FD is not shutting down just because of this. FD has responded to about 85 medical calls this year. FD does not know when Medstar problem will be resolved and does not have the equipment to transport people off the Island, plus they are not a licensed transport operation. The County is negotiating, thinking of privatizing, but from what has been seen, not a good idea. With Medstar evacuation cost about \$8,000; recently Bay Flight was called from St. Pete and bill was \$16,000. We should make our voice heard to the BoCC re. helicopter emergency service by a letter-writing campaign. [or email: dist1@leegov.com, dist2@leegov.com, dist3@leegov.com, dist4@leegov.com, dist5@leegov.com] Private Companies have been unable to respond to about 6 emergency calls on the mainland for helicopter. Question: Can our FD administer medication? No, our FD is Basic Life Support only and it would be very expensive to upgrade. We do have individuals who are trained but without approval, they cannot do advanced life support. Ambulances are tax supported but we need Medstar, which was tax-supported. In lieu of emergency helicopter, FD requested a paramedic to come in and spend the day here. Our Dept. gets calls to help out off-Island but our guys cannot leave our Island unprotected, but if Lee Co. provided a paramedic our guys could help with other calls. Does Lee County have a legal responsibility to provide helicopter emergency service? There is a website - www.Change.Org - that has information re. Medstar and action alerts. The whole Medstar program is under investigation. There are two helicopters available to the Island but the County has not taken any action. Karen will look into the Media's interest in this subject. Coalition between Islands would be good - ABILee [Association of Bridgeless Islands of Lee Co.] used to exist but is now inactive. There are 150 rental houses on the Island and these people expect emergency service. There exist insurance policies to cover evacuation by helicopter. Question: Since we have no helicopter service, who could we go to with our questions? - The County Commissioners. Gene Murphy suggested several Island residents meet with John Manning to discuss this. Zeke McDonald volunteered himself and Chief Pepper to join him.

Bob Kinniry: Since the addition was voted down, considering the number and size of houses, FD is not prepared to attend a fire in a very tall house; we need to think about getting proper equipment. \$100,000 has already been spent to plan for the Addition and it will be lost if nothing is ever built. Permits will be good for 4 years. There is a proposition afoot to fund the Addition privately by pledging an annual amount; however the FD cannot solicit funds. Therefore needs a "Friends of the FD" or some such organization to solicit donations. In response to a question: It is NOT true that the Fire District could just levy an ad valorem tax to raise funds for the Addition. If we had the lodging, we could house a county-provided paramedic. Tourist bed tax? - Why can't we keep a portion of that to use for our needs? Ans: It's a major source of income for Lee Co. and they don't want to turn over any to us.

Road Commision has acquired a box rake and they are plowing our roads with it, an improvement. Consideration of raising the elevation of Seair Rd. along the airstrip but that won't work because the power lines criss-cross underneath.

Ann - Community Center: Drawing by Dave Tompkins distributed to encourage folks to think about a Community Center.

When we email out Minutes in the future, we will encourage folks to "reply all" to some of the Board members with responses, questions, ideas, etc.

UCCA is still interested in acquiring property for public access.

Old business: Marina hearing has been continued til Nov.2 at 9:00am to 2:00pm. [And Nov.14 at 10:00am, Nov.16 at 9:00am, and if necessary Nov.30 at 9:00am.]

Mulch: Safety Harbor Club has free mulch available and will deliver. Call them at 472-1019.

Grant request: Zeke asked for a grant to clear roads for fire trucks to be able to pass. FD will procede to get bids whatever method UCCA prefers.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary