

## Minutes of the April 17, 2016, UCCA meeting at Safety Harbor Clubhouse

President JoAnn Beiermeister called the meeting to order at 11:20am

Board members present: Andrew Anderson, JoAnn Beiermeister, Jackie Byrnes, Sue Ann Cousar, Fran Deture, Ann Murphy, Helen Justice, and John Mejia by phone. Absent: Duncan Rosen

Attendees present: Steve and Marion Hall, John Otis, Sandy Werner, Linda Deture, Joanna Drummond, Robert and Sue Hipkens, Horst Eylerts, Steve and Deanie Sward, Michael Filipczak, L.A. Brickner, A.J and Erin LaVallie, Mark Justice, Bob Kinniry, Bill Byrnes, Joe Miklavcic, Deane and Sandra Richardson, Gene Murphy, and Mark Muller.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report: Islandfest was a huge success. Gross profits amount was \$21,230, net profits amounted to \$12,155 after expenses. Still owed to UCCA is \$870. Yearly payment to the Island Access Fund will be made at the end of 2016 and Fran estimates that we will have approximately \$85,000 in that fund.

Joe Miklavcic gave a presentation regarding beach erosion that has been occurring on our Island over the years. A group of property owners on the northwest tip of the Island have formed a not-for-profit corporation for the purpose of protecting and restoring the beach. It is North Captiva Community Beach Restoration, Inc. (NCCBRI) and its goal is to obtain Island-wide support for the beach-saving endeavor. To that end, NCCBRI has retained the engineering firms of Hans Wilson & Associates, and Humiston & Moore to complete a study of beach currents and erosion for the purpose of identifying the causes of erosion and recommending options for stopping it and restoring the beach. Their report should be completed in May. Presently, there are 20 members in the NCCBRI that are funding the engineering studies and working closely with the County. They are also working on a website and working with the UCCA to get the information out to the Island community. Donations from other Islanders are not requested at this time.

Chief Kinniry's report: Chief Kinniry thanked all Islanders who worked on the UCFRD's 25th anniversary celebration. The Department has answered 53 calls to date in 2016, including a golf cart fire. The chief stressed the importance of regular golf cart maintenance to prevent cart fires. Kinniry also reported that the UCFRD's crew boat was stolen and vandalized at Pine Island Marina. The Sheriff's office is investigating but so far, no arrests have been made. UCFRD is also investigating whether there is insurance to cover the loss. Gene Murphy expressed his concern about the brush piles that are evident all over the Island and Chief Kinniry indicated that he is speaking with the various landscapers and requesting that they chip/clean up their trimmings. Chief Kinniry informed the membership that all five Fire Commission seats will be open in November. Anyone interested in running for a seat has until June 24 to file the paperwork. Last, the Chief discussed the lock box program, which allows the Department to gain access to homes in case of an emergency.

Sue Ann Cousar informed us that sea turtle season began on April 15. She requested that Islanders who rent their homes speak to their renters about turning off all lights at night that face the beach so that the turtles will come ashore to make their nests. She also warned about large holes on the beach and other conditions that could be dangerous to turtles. She requested that we all take safety precautions to protect the sea turtles.

The subject of easements on the Island was brought up as there have been attempted closings of public

easements by property owners in various areas of the Island. Specifically, the owners at the end of Nighthawk have roped off the easement used for public beach access, have paved into the easement, and have planted dune grass in an effort to prevent Islanders from gaining access to the beach and parking their golf carts. Sandy Werner reported that at her own expense, she had a survey of the property done which shows that the encroachments are actually on Calusa Land Trust property. JoAnn Beiermeister produced a letter from Knott, Ebelini and Hart, attorneys for the property owners, the Tolls, addressed to JoAnn as president of the UCCA and John Kendall, president of the Calusa Land Trust, alleging that a group of Islanders had trespassed on and vandalized the Toll's property including "trampling state-protected beach dune vegetation to cut a path to the beach." In fact, the gathering that occurred on April 1 was on Calusa Land Trust property, which Islanders have CLT's permission to utilize to gain access to the beach. It was pointed out that the letter contained many misstatements of fact, which the UCCA will address in a letter to the attorney. Fran Deture moved that we draft a survey question to our membership to determine how aggressively they want UCCA to pursue going after property owners who block our easements. The motion carried and a survey question will be prepared.

A.J. LaValle discussed the need for an ongoing program for road maintenance. He indicated that a road grader was necessary to maintain the roads properly. Anyone interested in learning more about what the Road Company is doing to fix the roads or wants to contribute to the cause can go to the website [roads.northcaptive.com](http://roads.northcaptive.com).

As to the Island Access fund, the UCCA will continue to make yearly contributions through 2017 as previously voted on by our membership and will continue to search for an appropriate site to purchase. Fran Deture recently sent out a letter of explanation to the membership discussing the history of how the UCCA got to the point that it decided that a landing site for all Islanders was necessary and indicating that the UCCA would proceed with its plan for the good of the Island.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.