

UCCA General Membership Meeting January 29, 2017, at 11:30am
Safety Harbor Clubhouse

President Jo Ann Beiermeister called the meeting to order.

Directors present: Jo Ann Beiermeister, Jackie Byrnes, Sue Ann Cousar, Fran DeTure, Ann Murphy, Helen Justice, Bryan Brillhart, Deb Skinner. Absent: Jack Rutledge. Also present: Karen Sirabian, Beverly Horsley, Linda DeTure, Piper & Swin Swinford, Steve & Marion Hall, Deane & Sandra Richardson, Steve Hoffman, Travis Parker, Dan Hrycyk, Linda McPherson, Homer & Janet Cooksey, Richard Malloy, Bill Fry, A. J. & Erin LaVallie, Chief Kinniry, Bill Byrnes, Gene Murphy, Russ Shallcross, Tema Goetzel, Bruce & Ann Carey, Mark Justice, Cora Ogle, Zeke McDonald.

Minutes of October 23, 2016 were read by Sue Ann Cousar and approved.

Results of election of Directors: The three Directors standing for re-election were re-elected. Jo Ann thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve on the Board.

Results of election of Board officers: Jo Ann Beiermeister, President; Jackie Byrnes, Vice-President; Sue Ann Cousar, Communications Secretary; Fran DeTure, Treasurer; Jack Rutledge, Recording Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account \$7,811.40; Paypal account (website): \$1,258.34; MMA: \$81,988.18

Drones & Salty Approach - Zeke McDonald – Salty Approach Inc. owns the airstrip for its members and it is an uncontrolled airstrip. Directors are Zeke McDonald, Brian Thometz, Ray Torres, xxx . People have called Zeke advising that one is wanting to operate a drone. Zeke advises them to keep below 100 ft. Zeke requests that UCCA ban use of drones within developed part at north end of Island. Zeke gave us FAA publication about drones. A drone operator must call airport manager for permission to fly a drone within 5 mi., but within 3 mi. must have 2-way communication for permission, not just leave a voice message. Dan thinks that there is a difference between Home owners and renters. Home owners will keep in contact, but renters need to be advised against use of drones on Island and notice put on the website. The wording should be recreational use of drones or unauthorized commercial use on Upper Captiva is expressly prohibited.

Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue Department - Chief Kinniry: FD keeping up with equipment maintenance. Thanks to Bill Byrnes and A. J. LaVallie for monitoring the road trimming project and applying Garlon. This year is predicted to be a drier season so everyone needs to be alert to fires on the beach (prohibited), etc. There is interest in CPR training; a class should be limited to maximum of six. The FD can do several classes on different days. Call the FD 472-8899 if interested; there is a fee of \$20 to get certified in CPR.

Gene asked if there is good training of fire personnel on new equipment, submersible pumps, bigger diameter of fire hoses, etc. Chief Kinniry said everything is ready to go in case of fire. Jo Ann asked about fire protection of some of the very large houses. Zeke answered that the staff is well-prepared and knows the Island limitations and feels that we are better prepared now than the year of the big fire on north end. What can be done about big piles of cut vegetation that are on Island? Have to catch them in the act, take photo, and report to FD, otherwise it is the problem of the property owner where the pile is, even though they are not responsible. Steve Hall asked about training of volunteers – is there still training on Mondays? Volunteers are not certified but they are still valuable in backup roles. Linda DeTure asked about access to all properties, especially on Point House Tr.; can the fire trucks get around stone walls? Chief said it is difficult to make the turns there but is possible.

Road Trimming – Bill Byrnes: After crew cut, it was inspected to verify that it was done correctly. Bill thanked Bryan Brillhart of NCIC, Dan Davenport, and Island Girl for transportation of workers and equipment to the Island; A.J. LaVallie and Mike Filipczak for applying Garlon, and Bryan providing Garlon, Don Brezindine of NCIC; Jackie Byrnes and Jo Ann Beiermeister for picking up seven large bags of trash. There is an Island mandate to get rid of Brazilian Pepper by 2021 so get rid of it now.

What should be done in future about trimming back roads? Everybody should take responsibility for his own property. There is interest and cooperation to work together to fix this problem. We will need to trim again next and every year.

A.J. has a lot of experience in killing B.Pepper and it needs to be treated immediately with Garlon. If you cut stump and don't treat within 5 min, the stump will produce many shoots. He has instructions on how to apply Garlon and kill B. Pepper. Birds do spread the seeds that propagate Pepper. Fran asked what can be done with all the B. Pepper that is going to be cut/chipped in the next four years to comply by 2021? SHC is buying another chipper and will be glad to chip cut vegetation. Chipped Pepper left in place for a month creates heat and it will not germinate. When property changes hands, before one can get a CO, all Pepper has to be removed. Gene Murphy volunteered to do the mailing of a letter if someone prepares the copy; Bill and Jackie Byrnes were assigned preparation of the letter.

Some Street signs need to be repainted or repaired.

There are still some houses that do not have street address numbers posted on their property (less than ten).

Beach Restoration – Bryan Brillhart, VP of organization: Joe Miklavcic, with Hans Wilson, presented a conclusion that hardened structures were the way to handle beach erosion. This created some animosity and some members of their Board resigned. Bryan got involved as a Board member because he didn't want to see the \$40,000 already spent to be wasted. The beach homeowners felt they were alone on protecting their property. The north end has renewed their permit for the four rock groins they have already had for more than 20 years. DEP 161 Beaches and Shores – follow process spelled out by DEP. Beach Community needs to work together to solve problem, but if everyone pitches in the cost wouldn't be prohibitive. Fran said for every action there is a reaction: when hardened structures are used there are consequences to neighboring beach. The Montanas had Gulf water under their house four years ago and now they have 100 yds. of beach in front of their house. Can we tap into the Lee County bed tax? Upper Captiva Community here at north third of island has been marked a critical area because houses are at risk. Parking and bathrooms need to be provided for the public to qualify for public funds. There is a Coastal Advisory Council that has potential funding for communities. Beach Restoration group will have a website and be sending out a Newsletter.

The Board is working on the 2017-18 Island Directory.

Island Cleanup will be Saturday Feb. 11, 2017, 9am signing up and getting a garbage bag at the Fire Station.

Island Fest will be in April, maybe week before Easter.

There is a leash law and everyone needs to be aware to keep their dog on the leash and to clean up after their dog.

Under-age golf cart drivers – Bryan Brillhart: email NCIC a photo of a cart that is breaking the rules and get \$25 reward that is taken out of the \$100 fine assessed on abusers. Cart abuse would be under age drivers, over max capacity, cart on beach, cart in deep water. Email photo of cart ID and proof of violation to help@northcaptiva.com and receive \$25 reward.

Next UCCA meeting will be Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 11:30am at Safety Harbor Clubhouse.

Minutes submitted by
Sue Ann Cousar, secretary