

UCCA Meeting April 23, 2017, 11:30am
Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Board members present: Pres. JoAnn Beiermeister, VP Jackie Byrnes, Sec. Sue Ann Cousar, Treas. Fran Deture, Jack Rutledge, Bryan Brillhart, Patricia Hoffman, Deb Skinner; absent Helen Justice. Also present: Ann Murphy, Bill Fry, Chief Bob Kinniry, Keith Perry, Jerry Vernon, Sandy Werner, Tim Smith, Kristi Riggle, Linda DeTure, Bill Byrnes, Deane & Sandra Richardson, Horst Eylerts, Travis & Jenny Parker, Evan Kreeple, Joanna Drummond, Karen Sirabian, Judith Miller Smith.

JoAnn Beiermeister called meeting to order. Introduced new Board member, Patricia Hoffman.

Sue Ann Cousar read Minutes of January 29, 2017, which were approved.

Jo Ann apologized that the Deputy called and cannot come because he's only one on duty and because of weather.

Treasurer Report: Fran reported that tax return finalized, UCCA registered with the state. Checking Bank balance: \$13,513 (with additional \$4,538 in PayPal); \$89,521 in the Island Access Fund. Island Fest netted \$11,920. Fran noted 2017 is the last year UCCA is obligated to contribute half its profits to Island Access Fund until there is a new vote. Report approved.

Fire Department - Chief Kinniry: Thanks to Bill Byrnes for planning Memorial Service held last month, April 1, 2017, remembering Alan Aulen, Pete Hagerman, Fred Hill, Walter Mead, and Mike Benson. Training for Volunteer Firefighters (for support services) is available. Interested parties should contact Chief Kinniry so he can arrange for sessions, once a month for about an hour. In 1989, there was one firefighter and volunteers were a ragtag group. ISO has changed volunteer status and they are support status rather than actual fire fighting. Lee Co. provides support by strike teams from other fire districts if we have a fire. But we still need volunteers to help, such as giving transport from dock to station, of arriving help. Chief wants to know who is interested in volunteering. Not interested in certifying folks (liability). Travis Parker is attending law enforcement school and can be a help. Keith Perry added that our Fire District is a Life Safety institution, not a structure saving institution.

After Don Beiermeister's death, JoAnn donated a boat, which has now been replaced and it was dedicated on April 21 and named "D Wave Meister".

A kitchen fire on Swallow was extinguished. Homeowners are reminded to leave any fire scene intact until fully inspected, to avoid voiding insurance claims and other complications. A reminder that fires are prohibited on the beach. If you set a fire you are responsible for all damage including resources used to fight the fire! Keith Perry is certified forensic fire inspector, specializing in kitchen fires. Keith explained the idea of mutual aid and firefighters on duty today here were fighting fires yesterday. All fire fighters and paramedics are licensed and are limited in what they can do. Fire on Swallow was microwave caused and keypad malfunctioned. It heated for 4-5 hours and fortunately teens returned to house and reported fire. [Call 911 if there is a fire.] Everything is a crime scene until proven otherwise so don't go in. Fire Scene transfers to insurance company and no one may enter. Sirabian asked a question: A woman had driven into a ditch near Pineland Marina and Karen called 911 and operator could not figure out where she was. After 30 min. still no one had arrived. What can be done about cell phones, which most calls will come from? There are problems, so maybe it's good to call 911 and then dial fire station 472-8899.

There is a burn ban. Unfortunately Lee Co. has not authorized a County wide burn ban. Locally burning is not allowed on the Island; remind folks that we do not have any fire hydrants so a fire that causes harm or damage is fire setters liability. Call our FD to report any fires on the beach. Our FD is responsible for entire Island, and FL Park Service also prohibits fires (and camping) on the beach. Code Enforcement should be called about piles of vegetation on Island lots.

Fire Commissioner Bill Fry: FL law allows FD to assess a tax on properties. Proposed Assessment of \$75 each property for road maintenance. Third opinion from attorney Richard Pringle that yes, we were allowed to maintain pathways. (Earlier opinions from attorney Pritt said no, not legal to maintain pathways.) This would be \$35 - \$75,000 a year to help maintain our pathways. Before assessment the FD would want to ask the voters' opinion but they do not want a survey done at this time because legality has not been cleared. A.J. LaVallie, upcapaj2@aol.com, is community liason if anyone wants to voice opinion. Do you want FD to assess? Do you approve of \$75 a year? Bill asks what is the standard Islanders want for the roads? Jackie asked if Fire Commissioners want the UCCA Board to do a survey using Bill's

questions? Bill responded that Fire Comm. does not want that yet. Bill Byrnes said that these funds would qualify to trim roads and treat surface. Sue Ann read Hart Kelly's email letter in his absence. This subject was discussed at Friday's Fire District's Board of Commissioners and it was tabled. If they receive requests to bring up the subject again they may respond and discuss again. Bill thinks there needs to be a working group aimed at a referendum in Nov. 2017 if that is Fire Comm. will. Questions: Should South Banks be eliminated? Or SHC that maintains their own roads and charges their members?

UCCA Board voted a year ago to do a survey of membership asking how far you want UCCA to pursue going after folks blocking beach access. UCCA has not followed through because of cost of litigation. FD has put up signs at end of Jose Hideaway's five roads stating that it is Fire Lane – No Parking. Discussion about whether or not large legal fees should be a deterrent to pursuing beach access.

Dean Richardson: Problem of carts driving thru SHC. Some problems have been resolved by re-routing roads. There is a problem at south end of SHC, including intersection of Bartlett Pkwy. and Rum Road. Safety improvements addressed by SHC: developed some options. Best option approved by SHC Board April 22, [Dean showed proposed map of re-routing.] There will be a biking-walking path different from golf cart route. Bill Byrnes asked about traffic from Seagrape Bend.

Sue Ann requested that those whose houses can be seen from the beach, please post in your home that exterior lights may not be used at night during turtle season, May 1 thru Oct. 31. Lights shining on beach discourage females from coming ashore to lay their nests and disorients hatchlings from heading to the Gulf.

Sandy Werner reported that the Calusa Land Trust property, which afforded public access to the beach off Nighthawk, was sold and is now private property, eliminating that access.

Bill Byrnes thanked both Gene and Ann Murphy for all they have done and contributed to the Island during their years on the Island. They have sold their Island home and are leaving the end of April. Bill Byrnes has been asked to take up the reins of the Friends of the Fire Department organization.

There is a Lee County water ban in force that applies to even us here on Island. We may water by hand but are limited using irrigation system.

Minutes submitted by
Sue Ann Cousar, Communications Secretary