

UCCA Meeting April 15, 2012, 11:00am
Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Present were V.Pres Ann Murphy, who conducted the meeting, Sec. Sue Ann Cousar, Treas. Fran DeTure, Directors Jackie Byrnes, Katie Walsh, Tom Palazzo, Steve Muse; absent were Vicki Kirsh and Pres. Arthur Mason was called away. Also present Kristie Anders, Dave Tompkins, Marcia Andrews, Jimi Rosen, Andrew Anderson, Hanne & Howard Kulin, Steve & Marion Hall, Don & JoAnn Biermeister, John & Roseanne Loesch, Donna Palazzo, Linda DeTure, Sandy Werner, Deane & Sandra Richardson, Larry Diorio, Gene Murphy, Bert Trapanese, Tom Murphy, Jerry Vernon, Tom Jenkins, Dan Davenport, Maxine Otis, Bill Byrnes, Joel & Wrenda Halverstadt, Richard & Pat Felegy, Richard & Andrea Pepper, Ken Straub.

Minutes of January 29, 2012: Jackie moved to approve, Fran second, all voted to approve.

Treasurer's report - Fran DeTure: \$80,962.99 balance. Ann moved to accept as read, Jackie second, all approved.

Report of Road Commission - Bert Trapanese: Fund raiser was big success, netted \$2,300. UCRC plans to have a fund raiser every year on April 1. Thanks to all who participated. Begin looking at removing 6" of sand off the road, putting down mulch, and then replacing the sand on top to stabilize, especially on Gulf Lane.

Community Panel - Kristie Anders: April 25 at 10:00am will be next meeting. Letters were sent out to every property owner re. the election of two new Panel members; there are four candidates.

Brazilian Pepper removal: Two people have been particularly active removing B. Pepper, A.J. LaVallie and Tom Jenkins. If anyone is working at pepper removal on Park land, make sure you stay 200 yards from eagles nest. Anyone may borrow a spray bottle of Garlon for their own private property, because the State considers every property a seed source of B. Pepper trees. You must girdle the tree with a cut and apply Garlon within 20 min. Don't apply to the ground; it will kill anything.

Gopher tortoises & Indigo snakes: Two Indigo snakes were run over and killed, and Gopher tortoise was smashed by a hammer so hard that it broke his spine and he died. This tortoise was probably 60-70 years old, in perfect health, and was the third tortoise to be hit by a hammer. The center of the shell is its spinal cord and the shell is its ribs.

Joel reported that Bob's Island Adventures' eight yellow golf carts are all still tuned to the fastest speed possible and he requested that it be resolved. Ann said she will call Deb Skinner, new owner of Bob's, about the problem.

Discussion of unrestrained dogs and leash laws: Florida leash laws apply here on the Island at all times, and no dogs are supposed to be on the State Park beach because of nesting birds.

Fire Department - Chief Pepper: A letter was mailed out by Fishkind & Associates of factual information and was part of the procedural process of the referendum on the Fire Station addition. The referendum ballot will be sent out as part of the Florida Primary election on August 14. All Island voters need to call the election commission, 239-533-8683, to have their August mailing address on record for the ballot to be sent to them directly because it cannot be forwarded. Final Public Hearing will be Sat., April 21, at 10:00am. An accountant who works for several big fire districts has informed us that, if the referendum passes, we should qualify for a 1.6% fixed rate 20 year loan, as Iona - McGregor Station got, which would cut our cost significantly. Everything that FD does is planning 5-10 years ahead and imagining what could happen. If the referendum passes, the special assessment would cost each property owner about \$138 a year. If the referendum should fail for the Fire Station Addition, the Fire Commissioners could vote for an ad valorem tax, but that would make us ineligible for the best loan rate. The ad valorem tax is based on the value of your property so would cost the homeowners more. Two in/two out rule was proposed in 2002 and has to do with hazardous environment. If there are two fire fighters inside a structure there have to be two fire fighters outside ready to go in, although they can be doing other tasks at the time. The Islanders could decide that they don't want fire fighters to go into a structure fire. With the extended stay the Fire Fighters are out here 4.5 days a week, which costs the FD less. There was an arsonist on the Island in 1992 who set two structure fires and five brush fires. We have a core group of Islanders that help and save us money, but if we have everybody in one location time is saved in case of medical emergency or fire. We are in wild fire season and have many acres of fuel. Recently on Pine Island 28 acres were burned, two structures damaged, caused by a spark from a welder. Four fulltime Fire Fighters: the rule says "4 members" and they may be Fire Fighter 1, which requires 203 hours of training and passing the State exam; it does not have to be 4 professional FF. Road clearing has almost been finished.

NC Marina - Tom Jenkins, one of the NC Marina partners, answered questions: Tom said he did an online survey of folks from Bartlett Pky. south, emailed to 110 people who own 186 properties and that 80% of those who responded (number of respondents not stated) were in favor of the Marina, just the reverse of an earlier all-Island survey. Very few people present indicated they had received the survey. Army Corp of Engineers was out here but we don't know their position. The Marina plans to sell fuel to day boaters, but Tom says it will be so expensive no one would come for that purpose, but would buy only in an emergency. Gasoline would not be removed from stored boats. [Since the meeting the NC Marina Project has received its Sufficiency Letter from Lee Co., which has been posted at www.UCCA1.com/islandbulletinboard.html.]

Kinsey Inn - Ann Murphy: The Kinseys have not yet had their Island meeting so they cannot progress until they have an informational meeting on the Island. [Note: that meeting has now been scheduled for May 14, at 10:30am at 4201 Point House Trail.] On the UCCA1.com website there are two documents posted that can give what information we have, the Courtesy Notice from Lee Co. and the Insufficiency letter.

Process: Once all the issues are settled it will go to a county hearing examiner and one will have to attend and speak at that meeting to be able to speak at the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

General discussion of access points: UCCA is looking to purchase property for an Island landing site. In that same vein, Ann would like to have a committee looking at a Community Center with a library, art center, and meeting room. Anyone interested in establishing such a committee, please come forward.

New Grant requests: Anyone who has legitimate grant requests, please submit in writing to the Board.

Sue Ann Cousar proposed Bylaws changes: 5.2 says "Directors are elected by majority vote of members present at the December meeting." Suggests we strike present at the December meeting and replace with in December. Since many are not here in December to attend the meeting, this would allow us to have an election of Directors by ElectionBuddy or some online election program in December. Any members who do not have email/internet access may receive a paper ballot.

8 BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS says, "Changes and amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by the membership by mail ballot." Suggestion that it be changed to "by online or mail ballot." With postage rates rising almost annually, an online balloting would be more economical; again a paper ballot would be sent to anyone without internet access.

3.2 "Membership is for the calendar year and may be obtained upon payment of the annual dues by January." Suggestion to strike "by January.". Obviously membership dues are gladly received anytime during the year.

6 OFFICERS: "Officers of the UCCA shall be President, Vice President and Secretary and Treasurer. The first duty of the new Board of Directors in January is to elect its officers from among the nine board members."

Suggestion to divide the position of Secretary into Recording Secretary and Communications Secretary to reduce the burden. Change to read: "Officers of the UCCA shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Communications Secretary, and Treasurer."

Fran moved that these proposed Bylaws changes be included with the next Newsletter to be put to a vote by the UCCA membership, second by Ann, all voted in favor.

A check was presented to Kristie Anders representing Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation/North Captiva Fund, \$3,700 profit from the auction of the Benches. Thanks were expressed to Ann Murphy for conceiving the Benches idea and executing it.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary

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