

Minutes of UCCA Meeting Dec. 8, 2012, 11:00am

Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Present at meeting: VP Ann Murphy, Treas. Fran DeTure, Sec. Sue Ann Cousar, Jackie Byrnes, Steve Muse, Vicki Kirsh, Tom Palazzo; Katie Walsh by telephone. President Arthur Mason was absent. Also present were Gene Murphy, Tom Levin, Bert Trapanese, John Otis, Bill Byrnes, Dave & Marcia, Bob Cousar, Deb Skinner, Carol Tarrier, Deane & Sandra Richardson, Donna Ellsworth, Linda DeTure, John Miksa, Steve Muse, Richard Pepper, Joel Halberstadt, Jerry Vernon, Carolyn Creagh, Andrea Pepper.

Meeting called to order by Ann Murphy at 11:10 due to telephone complications.

Minutes of October 28, 2012, Steve moved, Jackie 2nd, Minutes approved.

Nominations Committee - Jackie Byrnes reported: Since there were only three candidates for the three Director positions, Ann Murphy, Katie Walsh, and Sue Ann Cousar, Jackie moved, Steve Muse 2nd that they be re-elected by acclamation. An online election was unnecessary.

Treasurer's Report - Fran DeTure: Phone Book: We sold \$5,600 worth of ads - expenses of \$4,137.44 = \$1,462.56 profit. Cook Books: We have sold \$350 of cookbooks; costs 766.91 = loss at this point \$416.91. Cking Acct. \$2,937.66; Money Market Acct. \$27,662.75; CD's. \$45,000 + accrued int. = \$75,000 total.

Fire Department. - Chief Pepper: Fire Dept. maintaining status quo. Richard asked that the UCCA give a grant for the clearing of the roads. They are willing to help over-see the work but would rather not handle the bids. Ann suggested they form a "Friends of the Fire Department" group to cover those expenses. In any event, a written grant request should be submitted.

MedStar will no longer be giving emergency helicopter service. County is looking at two options. One is a combination public/private where the County would assess taxes to property owners and meanwhile subsidize a private company. Second and what they're really leaning to is privatization, that means user fee with no subsidy. BoCC is receiving bids to privatize an emergency service. The Island has seen costs go from \$600 a flight to \$8,000 a flight; recent use with a private company was almost \$19,000. County says they will be part of the negotiations of their flight fee. Other counties that have gone private report that the first 6 mo. - 1yr. they give a lower fee, and later raise it to what they want. Insurance is only covering about 20% of cost, rather than 80% as they should. UCFRD is not a transport agency, which would require another whole set of mandates. FD operates on priority system. Priority 1 is critical trauma or medical, priority 2 could become critical, #3 is basic calls. County transports off the island Priority 1 and 2. The helicopter is our ambulance since FD cannot transport. Negotiating a fee is important. Lee County never got the certification to fly patients to more distant hospitals like Miami, but they made the flights anyway. The FAA fines would have been in excess of \$1 million so instead Lee Co. gave up their certificate. The old helicopter was perfectly good and

certified to fly with the pilots they had, but Commissioners did not want to open up that service again. Bids from medical helicopter companies due to BoCC Dec. 21, when they will vote.

On Jan. 1 ArrowMed quits with Lee Co. and moves to Punta Gorda. They have poor track record in response time because they want the longer distance flights to make more money. Trip from Punta Gorda is about the same as from Page Field to here. Helicopter in service now does not acknowledge the GPS system that was installed on our airfield.

Gene Murphy: Karen Sirabian has looked at Insurance with Apollo Medical Transport, where one can buy an insurance policy for about \$300 for a family and can be renewed annually. Apollo will pay the difference between the cost of emergency helicopter service and what one's insurance will pay. Unified Life Insurance underwrites the policy and if you have no insurance they will pay all the emergency medical transport bill. They have a website www.ApolloMT.com. Boat option: Purchase a boat, outfit it all with private donations to take patients to Pine Island to meet an ambulance. Richard had negotiated with County about stationing a medical transport boat here for ALS service. We have plenty of captains who could take folks, but FD has to release patient to another medical person. There is no longer a Safety Operations Director, who has blocked every attempt to establish some ALS system, but he is no longer in office. We should all write to Board of County Commissioners urging them to discuss helicopter's fee schedules and response time.

Community Panel - Dave Tompkins: Through Community Plan we asked for a public meeting on the Island for zoning variance and a Clearinghouse of information. Next task is to write code. There has been a preliminary draft and Bill Spikowsky, a professional code writer, cleaned up language for code re. 1. Golf carts, 2. Brazilian Pepper eradication, 3. Dark Skies that would eliminate light pollution of our night sky, 4. Pubic informational meeting re property development. BoCC stresses that if we write code, the County has to enforce it. Next Community Panel meeting will be Dec. 11.

Road Commission - Bert Trapanese: Trying to take care of roads more frequently, using the box rake which is supposed to avoid a build-up of sand on the sides. RC asks for \$200 contribution from businesses and \$50 from residents. RC cannot be part of Fire Department tax so that everyone contributes to road maintenance. Bert said RC needs \$10-\$15,000 to put down fill.

Kinsey Inn withdrew their application for rezoning.

N.C. Marina: Another hearing is scheduled for Dec.14 at 9:00am.

UCCA Cookbooks, "Food Prints in the Sand", are available for sale for \$20.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary