

Minutes of Upper Captiva Civic Association Meeting

January 29, 2012, 11:00am at Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Board members present: Pres. Arthur Mason, Vice-Pres. Ann Murphy, Sec. Sue Ann Cousar, Steve Muse, Tom Palazzo, Jackie Byrnes, Vicki Kirsh, Katie Walsh via telephone. Absent was Treas. Fran DeTure.

Others present were L.A. Brickner, Andrew Anderson, Marcia Andrews, Ron & Helen Glick, Dave Tompkins, Kristie Anders, John & Maxine Otis, Donna Ellswick, Jeanne Walsh, Erin LaVallie, Steve Ward, Steve Sward, David Schiering, Jerry & JoEY Vernon, Homer & Janet Cooksey, JoAnn Beiermeister, Lawrence Diorio, Tom & Inez Jenkins, Charles & Deb Skinner, Joel Halverstadt, Sam Horsley, Kay Stieger, Bill Byrnes, Bert Trapanese, Thomas Chipman, Deane and Sandra Richardson, Gene Murphy, Bryan Brillhart, David & Thomasin Shepp, Carol Tarrier, Richard Pepper, John & Rosanne Loesch, Mark Kahler.

Report of FD - Chief Pepper: Advanced Life Support: After Richard's meeting with deputy director Kim Dickerson, operation chief Scott Tuttle, public safety director John Wilson, they went over the call volume on the bridgeless islands, Upper Captiva, Cayo Cost, Cabbage Key, and Useppa, and determined that the call volume did not support the placement of a paramedic here. If the bridgeless Islands formed a MSTU to raise the funds to bring a paramedic out here, the islands would have to get together to petition the County Commissioners for that. The basic cost to have a paramedic here 24/7 is \$440,000 a year. Arthur appointed Gene to head up a committee to investigate what could possibly be done to upgrade our system. Gene knows there are several on the Island who would make significant private donations for such a project. We do not keep a list of doctors who have a house out here who might be available - because of liability. Anything done under the auspices of the Fire District makes them liable. In Richard's meeting with deputy director Dickerson, she suggested going to "EMT advanced level" which they teach. Our guys could go through their program to enhance our skills and go on EMS calls with them. Now we can semi-automatic defibrillate and intubate; a paramedic can administer medication in cardiac cases. In case of stroke there is nothing that they can do in the way of pharmaceuticals, just get patient to the hospital as soon as possible via medstar.

On Feb. 25 there will be public forum on the FD addition. The first meetings are informational to explain the method adopted by Fire Board of how to raise money. Fire Board has not yet questioned exactly how the voting in a referendum will be done by the County. At the first meeting on Feb. 25 there will be grilled hotdogs and potluck dishes offered for people to visit, talk, and ask questions.

Board members introduced themselves. All were present except Fran Deture and Katie Walsh. [photo on UCCA1.com]

UCRC - Bert Trapanese: next Road Commission meeting will be Feb. 19. Bert will open the voting of Directors by ElectionBuddy after the meeting. Five days later he will announce the candidates and have the election on ElectionBuddy. Six inches of mulch makes a big difference on the roads - experimented around his property. The voting was close on the question of spending \$30,000 on fill dirt for the roads. 60% were against putting up \$250 towards fill material.

Planning Panel - Kristie Anders: Panel will be meeting next week, Monday, Feb. 6 at noon at SHC. Discuss regulations on who can operate a rented golf cart and other issues. Safe operation of golf carts is primary. There is committee looking at Brazilian Peppers in residential area. Margaret Banyan, Panel's consultant, has been asked to write draft of every conceivable scenario. Lee Co. regs say when you clear a lot to build you have to destroy all B.Pepper (and save cabbage palms).

Kristie reported that a couple of meetings have been held killing some B.Peppers on State land. Mark Duncan came and gave demo on how to kill Pepper with Garlon. Mark has left the chemical, tools, gloves. etc. A.J. Lavallie and Tom Jenkins have been working on killing B.Pepper on State Land. Kristie will pick another work day to kill pepper on State Land [Mon. Feb. 6, 8:00am, Rum Rd. entrance to Park.]

NC Marina Project: Sue Ann reported that 327 email ballots were sent out by ElectionBuddy; each email address is your key or ballot to participate: one email address = one ballot. 154 of 327 ballots, or 47%, participated in the survey. Question #1. Do you favor granting the application [to NC Marina Group for rezoning]? Yes: 23%, No: 77%. #2. If the answer is no would you favor granting it if the building were reduced in size from three levels to two? Yes: 16%, No: 81%. #3. Do you favor the sale of gas at the marina? Yes: 29%, No: 71%. A link to ElectionBuddy to view the results,

including comments, was emailed to everyone. Both husband and wife of each property have the right to vote, so if Sue Ann does not have a second email address for a couple, please email her at <sacousar@embarqmail.com>. In the future, if property owners do not have access to email and it is an election, a paper ballot can be mailed.

Time frame of project: it could take up to a year to get the County's approval to build. They are six months into the process and are trying to get the sufficiency letter. Some issues are noise, fire hazard, gas spillage in the waters, change in the nature of the area to commercial. Bryan plans to offer to property owners only and they will be the ones to determine how it is run. SHC has 50 slips and 64 boat owning members and they are never full. Everybody does not have a boat and does not want one. Bryan said he would be willing to work with a group to ameliorate the differences with the 77% that are against the construction of the project. Bryan would sell gas to anyone, however price would be very high to outsiders with a discount to dock owners. Once Bryan has sufficiency letter there will be a hearing in town and anyone who wants to speak before BoCC will have to attend the first hearing. A group of property owners along the canal have applied for permission to cut back mangroves on both sides to maintain canal. Bryan says he will not consider reducing the size to 2 levels. Who to contact if you cannot attend hearing: The Senior Planner for Lee Co. DCD/Zoning, is Chahram Badamtchian: phone 239-533-8372, Fax 239-485-8344, Email <cbadamtchian@leegov.com>. Arthur asked group if they think the UCCA Board should take a position? Consensus was not take a position at this time. Volunteers who would like to serve on a committee to work with Bryan on a mutually agreed solution are Bill Byrnes, Bert Trapanese, Jerry Vernon, Larry Diorio, Jane Mason, Steve Sward, John Loesch.

Richard said the FD is not taking a position. The Fire Code says all buildings have to conform to NFPA. FD. will come up with a plan of action for the eventuality of a fire. The systems the Marina would have to put in place for fire protection would probably not require any additional equipment by UPFRD. They would have to have 24hr. surveillance. Cost of bldg, is \$900,000. Bryan thinks the application will be sufficient in a couple of weeks and wants to have the hearing as early as possible. Thanks to Bryan for coming and talking with us. Committee will convene after the meeting. [Extensive information posted on www.UCCA1.com.]

Kinsey application: Arthur does not know where they are other than have filed with the County. They have not scheduled the informational meeting on the Island yet. [Courtesy notice with brief description and Insufficiency Letter on UCCA1.com.]

Road clearing: Board passed Grant for \$6,500 to FD to clear roads to Dennis and Gretchen Realy. Arthur asked that next year FD put a line item in their budget for road clearing so that all property owners help with the cost rather than just UCCA members. Maybe public solicitation for funds.

St.Pat's Party will be March 17 at Barnacle Phil's, maybe a pig roast. Same band as last year, Cindy Walsh.

"Benches of North Captiva" is an addition. There will be 5 benches artistically decorated and they will make appearances around the Island and there will be a "buy now" price. The "Benches" can be invited to make an appearance to see what our artists can do. The money will go to a non-controversial cause, hopefully NC Fund of SCCF.

Island clean-up will be Saturday, Feb. 11, at 9:00am at Fire Station and will be first appearance of "the Benches". Participants will receive a ticket for free cup of rice and beans at BP's.

Grant requests are invited for a good cause for the Island. We have about \$89,000.

Sue Ann 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. This would allow us to have an election of Directors by ElectionBuddy or some online election program.

#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."

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". There may be other changes that the Board wants to make. Group agreed in general.

Meeting adjourned. Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary