

Minutes UCCA Oct.27, 2013, 11:00am
Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Board members present: Pres. Ann Murphy, VicePres. Jackie Byrnes, Sec. Sue Ann Cousar, Treas. Fran DeTure, Steve Muse, Arthur Mason; Katie Walsh by phone. Tom Palazzo, Vicki Kirsh absent.

Also present: Mark Muller, Sue & Bob Hipkins, Dave Tompkins, Marcia Andrews, Kristie Anders, Mark & Helen Justice, Ron & Helen Glick, Deb Skinner, Bill & Tanya Fry, Gene Murphy, Bill Byrnes, Larry Diorio, A.J. & Erin LaVallie, Karen Sirabian, Andrea Pepper, Pam West, Karyn Lewis, Steve & Deenie Sward, Joel Halberstadt, Robert & Ruth Diefenbach, John & Linda Tapper, Andrew Anderson.

President Ann Murphy called meeting to order.

Minutes of April 14, 2013, already approved, distributed, and posted on the UCCA1 website.

Treasurer's report - Fran DeTure: as of 10/25/13 we have \$86,564 but unpaid \$10,000 for road trimming [**Note: Board voted online up to \$10,000 to Fire Dept. for road trimming in preparation for ISO inspection; contract given to NCIC for that amount**] and up to \$5,000 to Fishkind for study in preparation for referendum to fund two required additional fire fighters. (Note: At UCCA Board meeting on 10/25/13 the following resolution passed by unanimous vote: **Fran moved that UCCA fund the Fishkind study requested by the UC Fire Commission to determine assessment methodology preparatory to holding a referendum to fund two required additional firefighters, not to exceed \$5,000. Arthur seconded. All (6) voted in favor.**) That is potentially \$15,000 against \$86,564 leaving \$71,564. We have decreased our cash balance by about \$20,000 the past two years.

Treasurer's Report Approved.

Fire Chief Pepper's report: ISO inspection on 10/16/13 (informed on Sept.13th of ten year inspection). Suppression schedule changed & adopted by FL legislature on July 1. What changed between 2003 Suppression Schedule and 2013 was staffing: Used to say four members will respond to a fire within five minutes. Now it emphasizes four **qualified** members - firefighters. FD has to show they have personnel and they are trained. Equipment and its housing we did well but failed in personnel: we failed and are now protection class 10. This year inspectors did not ask for drill, but once personnel was lacking we were graded protection class 10. This means some insurance companies will drop clients, others will significantly increase insurance premiums. We believe that we will have a grace period to show that we have a plan to comply, but that will be up to the New Jersey office of ISO. Since last inspection we have improved hoses, communication, community outreach (showing fire lanes are maintained), code red system, notification, air packs (thanks to Friends of the FD), outdoor fire alarms at SHC townhouses. First step is to lobby Insurance Commission to give us a delay before implementing the Class 10, and we need to fund staff out here. At the same time, Chief Pepper has talked with the EMS chief of Lee Co. We have tried to get ALS [Advanced Life Support] system out here with paramedics, but the estimated cost is \$400,000 annually. If we increase our staff to four, we can hire firefighter/paramedics as part of the staff. The paramedics would have to operate under Dr. Joe Lemons' (of Lee Co.) license. We already have five paramedics on staff but cannot operate as such without a specific license. This will offer a service to the Island, but it needs

to be funded. Chief is talking to younger Island residents to see if they are interested in doing the 204 hours of training to be certified as Firefighter I.

Fishkind in doing their study, which would be necessary in order to have a referendum, will look at vacant lots as well as homes.

The question was asked how is it that we used to comply with the personnel requirement? It used to be 30 hours training for a volunteer could count as 1/2 firefighter and, although volunteers play an important role, now they do not count as a firefighter. ISO took the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) rules and applied them, and we are subject to them. A class 10 is as if we had NO Fire Dept. Property values have gone down so tax revenue to FD has gone down. Our FD cannot afford a traditional shift of 24hrs. but instead has extended stay (Richard & Bob). For additional firefighters we will need to fund more housing, boat transportation costs (and parking). Discussion that followed was favorable towards an additional assessment - financial benefits, better protection, and medical ALS. Chief Pepper thanked UCCA for their generosity in funding the trimming of the roads and the Fishkind study.

Fran added that congress has changed the flood insurance laws and flood rates are definitely increasing as well. Discussion followed.

Arthur Mason is chairman of Nominations Committee, with Steve Muse: Jackie and Fran are standing for re-election to the Board, and Helen Justice was introduced as a candidate. An email will go out to members inviting nominations.

Community Panel - Kristie Anders: Draft Code has been working its way through the process. Codes controlling weight and speed of golf carts, exterior lighting/night sky, Brazilian pepper eradication, and on-Island informational meetings. Code enforcement is saying it doesn't think it has the right to control vehicles on our paths. If we used state's definition of golf cart it is 4 passenger vehicle used on golf course. An electric neighborhood vehicle can go 35mph so speed and weight need to be regulated. Wed. Dec. 11, 8:30am, try to attend Lee Planning Agency meeting in town to express our need to control vehicles and it needs to be in the Code. We fall in crack so cannot control age limit of driver (some places say 14 yrs., State says 16 yrs old). Brazilian pepper code is moving through. Objection on night Skies saying folks like to shine lights up on their palm trees.

Community Panel is incorporated and Dave's opinion to disband prevailed among Panel members. All negotiations, grants and contracts with county have been the Panel functioning as a standing committee of UCCA. Bylaws of Panel could dissolve. An alternative is that Panel goes into inactive status but could be reactivated with a vote. Banyan says once Code is done, Panel no longer has to function under Sunshine law, there may be a time that the incorporated Panel could function.

Kristie - Indigo snake research project: has captured and tagged 15 snakes, one female (1 recaptured four times). All Lee outer islands are part of the Indigo snake project.

N. Captiva Conservation Fund: began with \$20,000 originally, \$15,000 of it from Barnacle Phil's walls. SCCF has been reimbursed \$2,500 for survey done. First 500 yards of park is free of Brazilian pepper. Cayo Costa Park has donated Garlon. Balance of \$4,800 in Fund. Workers from SCCF have worked from South to North on park.

Kristie: NC Marina is legal and permitted to dredge out around Mango's for 27 slips. They don't have building permit but have development order, good for five years. Only issue not resolved is whether slips will be sold or they will need parking facility.

Mark Muller: would like for us to buy the two Andy Fuxa lots (however, Andy said he would donate).

Jackie: There have been 911 calls that had difficulty responding because the houses did not have the address number posted on the house property. (Rental number no help). Over 125 houses are not marked with street number. Let your neighbor know if his house has no number (and of course take care of your own). Emergency responders need to see the address number - visible from the street. They do not know where to respond without number posted.

A.J. LaVallie on Fire break: Park officials have agreed that we may cut our fire break, but we need to set volunteer work day.

There will be a 5K walk/run on Dec. 31, 2013, 9:00am to benefit our Fire Department. It will begin and end at Mangos, with the route going down into the State Park on the road. Entrance fee is \$25 and there will be tee shirts for those who sign-up in advance, plus a medallion for all participants.

Friends of Fire Department - Gene Murphy: Two organizations and 31 individuals have given \$30,000 to benefit the Fire Dept. Money has been spent on items to fight fire and four air packs (\$19,000). Only \$1,000 left in Fund. Everyone who said he would donate has not come forward with check.

UC Road Commission: no representative present. Peter Aldrian is president after Bert Trapanese's resignation, Marc Broxmyer has resigned, John Porter plans to resign. A.J. has volunteered to be on the Road Commission.

Jackie & Bill Byrnes & Karen Sirabian will chair Island Clean-up, to be held Saturday, Feb. 15.

Andrew Anderson will be chair of St. Pat's fund raiser.

Signs need to be posted at Fuxa lots, State Park's lot near end of Bartlett Pky., end of Nighthawk, and SE end of airstrip prohibiting golf carts on the beach.

Honeybees, which are threatened, have been attracted to our Island. If you discover a hive, instead of calling an exterminator, call a bee remover and save the honeybees: Keith Councill, 239-839-4479, or email beekeith@gmail.com.

Summary sea turtle report: Residential beach: 21 total emergences, 15 nests marked, 1 predated by raccoons, 4 washed away; 4 successful nests, i.e. more eggs hatched than not. State Park beach: 98 total emergences, 44 nests laid, 18 nests marked, 42 of 44 nests predated by raccoons/bobcats, 4 nests lasted long enough to be evaluated, one Green Turtle nest successful.

Meeting adjourned. Next UCCA meeting will be Sunday, Dec. 15, 11:00am.

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary