

UCCA Minutes of January 31, 2010  
11:00am Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Meeting called to order. Board members present: President Fran DeTure, V.Pres. Arthur Mason, Secretary Sue Ann Cousar, Treas. Gary Fisher, Sam Horsley, Joel Halberstadt, Jackie Byrnes. Absent: Ann Murphy, Karen Sirabian. Also present: Deane & Sandra Richardson, Lawrence Diorio, Lauen Durnin, Linda DeTure, Glen "Hip" Kachel, Charles & Jeannette Wallschlaeger, Don & JoAnn Beiermeister, Louis Silverstein, Tom Levin, Richard Pepper, Marcia Andrews, Dave Tompkins, John & Rosanne Loesch, Horst Eyselerts, Bob Cousar, Jerry & Joey Vernon, Kristie Anders.

Treasurer's report - Gary: 2010 Budget: income - membership dues \$7,000, St. Pat's fundraiser \$7,000, sale of UCCA Phone Book \$3,000 = \$17,000. Expenses - insurance \$1,500, Island access agreement \$2,500, Planning Panel seed money \$5,000, legal fees \$1,000 = \$10,000. Net \$7,000. There could be other expenses no one knows what that might entail. Arthur expressed concern that our holdings continue to increase and there are projects that could benefit the Island which that money could usefully be spent on. If the Planning Panel does not receive a grant then we could use funds ourselves for that purpose. The iguana situation is another concern. Fran said to have a site for a Community Center is still a goal, but we would need significant funds for that. 2010 Budget was unanimously approved.

Membership: 90 members so far, and still trickling in and reminder notices will be going out soon.

Nominating Committee: At Board meeting nominating committee reconstituted: Sam Horsley, chair, plus Arthur Mason and Ann Murphy.

Community Development Committee: variance requests are channeled through them. No pending requests.

Island Clean-up: Sat., Feb. 13, will start out from Fire Station at 9:00 to pick up trash bag and assignment. Receive a ticket for free beans and rice, compliments of Barnacle Phil's, when you turn in bag of litter to dumpster box provided by Fuzzy.

St. Pat's Fundraiser - Joel: Party will be at Barnacle Phil's on March 20. Mock-up of publicity poster is up. Joel has talked to Emily of Island Girl about advertising more to tourists who take Island Girl. Nice dinner of barbecued ribs and chicken. Entertainment will be Cindy Walsh who has small group, acoustical guitar, nice voice, music that appeals to baby boomers. Instead of golf cart raffle we will have two nice beach cruiser bikes, all aluminum. Will be displayed at Fire Station several weeks in advance. Fundraiser takes a lot of work from many volunteers, 30-40, and there are sign-up sheets that we hope you will sign.

Arthur needs volunteers to bake cakes for the cake walk. If you know anyone whose business can volunteer something or a service for the live auction, it will be appreciated.

Planning Panel: Panel has been concentrating on By-laws for method of selecting future Panel members, but instead is now focusing on selecting a fifth panel member to replace Richard Craven. An email has been sent out soliciting volunteers. Chief Pepper said that Richard's position was as representative of the Fire Department with interest in public safety, however Kristie said that it was 50/50 split in the Survey Monkey between rep from UCFRD and UCCA as a Panel member. The survey voted 51% to retain current panel. Attorney Pritt has said that stability really matters to the County. Progress in the last week: Kristie is in communication with Commissioner Jaynes and Joe Laguardia of Community Development office. There is some money left over from last year and there is small window of opportunity that we will receive some grant money. Jaynes and staff believe that on Feb. 9 we have a chance to support Jaynes with his request to support our grant request. We hope to have our requested \$30,000 by April. Until then Pritt and Banyan are working with us thanks to the \$5,000 that UCCA has pledged. The money will be used for surveys, approaching public on legal language for our desires, e.g. golf cart restrictions to legal drivers. There are other issues that were discussed during the early meetings. Question was put to Kristie about asking for the full \$50,000, but we are humbly only asking for \$30,000.

Phone book: Dave: Info will be based on membership lists and Islander Realty database. Jackie and Bill Byrnes will help with updating of map. Board responsible for getting advertising. Need to finalize ad campaign..

Island Access - Arthur: Mary wants to change wording to "license" instead of "easement". Art will talk to Pritt about it. Hopefully next week it will be accomplished.

Sheriff's deputy: Survey asking what kind of deputy presence wanted on the Island had 90 responses: 16 for 24/7 coverage, 21 for weekend only, 27 for holidays and Spring break, 10 thought nothing, 16 didn't respond. Majority favor weekend only and holidays and Spring break. Bill told to focus on holidays and Spring break with UCCA not incurring any expenses. Sheriff will enforce the law on everyone, not just tourists, and thinks we do deserve deputy coverage.

Native Plants project was suggested by Katie. Has been suggested to include in phone book some info, as well as in successive Newsletters and on web site. Kristie brought info with her, various free brochures, that she encouraged folks to take with them. JoAnn suggested we also put out info at St. Pat's party. Sue Ann should contact Katie that we want to move ahead on the project, since we already have all the info we can use.

Canoe Launch: Everybody frustrated that we weren't making progress. Based on that, at Jan. Board meeting, Fran proposed that we consider trying to sell the piece of property. Board approved. However, afterwards Marcia Andrews and Garfield Clark said they were willing to see a revised Canoe Launch to completion. At Dec. meeting Chief Pepper suggested the property be used as a draft point for UCFRD. Marcia passed out a history of progress on canoe launch site. Garfield talked to Mark Miller, a DEP manager, who said if it's a draft point for FD, we should put through an application asking that restrictions on mangrove trimming be waived; it should be a simple matter. We are asking permission to clear a 5' wide strip of mangroves for FD to back a pump to the water. Also this will enable folks to hand carry their kayaks to the water. Suggested that UCCA pay \$500 for clearing and the \$400 for permit request (has already approved \$2,000 for kayak launch.) Chief Pepper: that section of Island needs a new draft point for next ISO inspection. FD will see to it that it is maintained and will include sign that it is a FD draft point and no parking. When not in use as draft point, no problem with folks using it as a kayak launch. Fran asked Chief Pepper for a written agreement that it will be a draft point. Arthur moved that we rescind prior motion to put up property for sale, and authorize Marcia Andrews to work with Fire Dept. to implement use of property as draft point and potential use by kayakers. Jackie seconded. All voted in favor. Application is completed but needs to be signed by UCCA with \$400 check for permit request. Chief Pepper will provide "hold harmless" document from FD to UCCA.

Bush hog: Chief Pepper also mentioned in Dec. meeting the need to purchase bush hog to maintain fire break. Board is concerned it was a fire break on State land and maybe they should maintain it. Board thought it might be simpler to hire bush hog operator to do it with his equipment. Gary thought someone from State Parks should give us something in writing giving FD permission to maintain fire break (because of our history with them.)

Letter re. funding requests: Continuing, Fran had on agenda "letter to Chief Pepper" and he apologized saying the Chief should not have been singled out. There have been examples of UCCA helping others out with funding, and then based on verbal agreements, the project isn't finished, or folks deny involvement (DEP). It had been proposed sending letter to UCRC, UCFRD, DEP, State Parks, et.al. that whatever agreements are made should be in writing, with something held back until completion of project. Consensus of Board was opposed to a letter. Marcia suggested instead of a letter, a widely published policy might be better. Jackie suggested reducing to writing our understanding of agreement and ask them to sign and return. Policy statement included in minutes of this meeting is needed. Jackie said we want to put organizations on notice that UCCA will not rubber stamp every project that runs out of money. Arthur moved that we include in the minutes of this meeting a statement that we will consider requests for funding for community based projects, based on written proposals. Gary seconded. All voted in favor.

Garbage: Bert Trapanese and Hart Kelly held a public meeting last Wed. Jan. 27, and are trying to have an Island-wide garbage collection program to include recycling, household garbage, and yard waste at an estimated cost of \$270,000 a year, based on 300 homes, or \$900 each household. Want to also compost vegetation trimmings. They envision once a week pick-up, with on-Island composting. Resulting material would be available to Islanders as a trade for sand from one's yard, sand to be used on roads. Garbage plan would be funded by taxes, so would appear on tax bill. Commercial interests would be taxed at some multiple of that number. Comments mostly were that it seemed expensive, many people would be taxed an entire year when they are only parttime residents. Bert and Hart are soliciting comments. Strong opposition from Safety Harbor Club at their meeting on Jan.30, especially that SHC would have to suspend their incineration operation that is efficient and has been done by known people for many years. Art thinks UCCA should not take a position. Gary pointed out that the proposal would require approval by 51% of homeowners of the Island. It was pointed out that recycling is an important part of their plan at no extra cost. Art raised the issue of security - unknown contractors coming out here and observing who is here and who is not. JoAnn said SHC is wanting to get involved with recycling, asking people to separate their garbage.

There is a new group of owners operating Ray Holmes' barge and renting space from Kinseys, Glen "Hip" Cachel et.al. Fran asked Hip to make a brief presentation of their operation. Hip has been recycling construction debris for 6 mo. Hip owned a recycling business in Cape Coral and now has the only solid waste site/transfer station on Island. Hip suggested use of a garbage truck that compacts and he would drive it onto barge and remove from Island on same day as garbage pick-up and could be done much cheaper. Fran asked that Hip prepare a proposal for us to consider. Gary Walker is no longer doing garbage, so that user group can continue to use Walker dumpster site and Hip will remove.

Along same line, Fran says that his proposal needs to include recyclables and garbage. UCCA needs to talk with SHC to get composting project up and running. Already piles of vegetation are accumulating on vacant lots since the burn, however SHC site is limited in how much vegetation they can handle. Gary moved that Fran sit down with SHC rep and Hip to discuss various trash proposals, and Larry Diorio, because of his knowledge on the subject, would like to be part of that. Sam seconded. All voted in favor.

Offshore drilling: Ft. Myers beach took a position against offshore drilling that they were presenting to state and national legislators. Should UCCA take a stand? Kristie said that the Sanibel City Council will make their determination on Tuesday. Drilling vs. local economy: here in Lee County tourism employs 1 in 5 workers, with 5 million visitors a year generating 3 \$billion a year impact. Question involves not only offshore drilling, but piping and transportation. There would be severe economic impact by offshore drilling. Our beautiful beaches are main reason for visitors. Once water enters Gulf it splits, one current heading towards Texas and another that sets up a current that comes right down our shore line after entering Gulf. With drift buoys they have determined that water

from the panhandle comes down our shoreline. Any accidental spill would affect us. Gary asked that Board ask Bob Pritt what procedure we should follow to tailor what we do to fit county's desires. Show of hands of who thinks we should take a position on offshore drilling - majority voted in favor (2 noes). Kristie says we have an opportunity to take a stand on 3 miles of beach. Fran will talk to Pritt. Sam asked could we take a vote by email or survey monkey? Yes, that is possible. Kristie reminded everyone to pickup brochures on native plants and added: Don't feed wild dolphins.

It was announced that beginning Feb.1st Island Girl will be running full schedule that includes a 5:00pm boat.

A suggestion was made to have name tags at signup sheet.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary.