

Minutes of UCCA meeting October 25, 2009
11:00am Safety Harbor Clubhouse

Board Members present: Fran Deture, Sam Horsley, Sue Ann Cousar, Gary Fisher, Ann Murphy, Arthur Mason, Joel Halberstadt. Absent: Marian Fuller, Karen Sirabian.

Also present: Kristie Anders, Joe & Joanna Drummond, Dave Tompkins, Deb Skinner, Donna & Tom Palazzo, Marcia Andrews, Zeke McDonald, Leslie Morreale, Ramon Torres, Moritz Koch, Bert Trapanese, Dick Lewis, Horst Eyeleerts, Gene Murphy, Carolyn Creagh, Linda DeTure, Beverly Horsley, Marc Broxmeyer, Richard & Andrea Pepper.

President Fran Deture called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the April 19, 2009, meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: checking account \$3,400.29; money market account at 1.4% \$51,308.14; CD at 1.9% of \$30,000 = total \$84,708.43. Upper Captiva Community Center Foundation \$6,444.79

Community Planning Panel – Kristie Anders: Panel met Wednesday, October 21, 2009. There were 106 responses out of 500+ mailings, either by mail or online survey. First question is whether or not to retain current Planning Panel, current Panel won by 1%. Second question asked what Island organizations or interests should be represented if a new Panel were chosen: environmental representative, existing Panel member, Fire Department, citizen-at-large, and UCCA representative. At last Panel meeting the motion was made and passed to retain the current Panel. They will be looking at other panels with the idea of making by-laws first and then decide how new members will be selected. Our Plan is now part of the Lee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, approved in May. There is a second phase where we have an opportunity to fine-tune the actual laws. If anyone wants to look at Captiva's plan, see <CaptivaCommunityPanel.org>. Our County liaison, Jim Mudd, has been let go so Panel is communicating with Paul O'Conner. The Panel has to apply for a grant. Margaret Banyan has worked with Florida Gulf Coast University and has brought the cost down of consulting services by using graduate students. She believes that will require \$20 - \$22,000. The Panel will need an attorney and would like to budget \$10,000 for that and \$5,000 will be needed for mailings and survey monkey. The County has budgeted only \$150,000 for grants for code-writing and there are already three requests in the works. Panel plans to ask for a grant of \$40,000. The other groups are asking for the full \$50,000 and are not putting any money forward. If UCCA offers some money towards project it shows community support and we are more likely to get grant approved. The twin communities of Alva and Olga are warring with two groups requesting grant money, thus tying up \$100,000. If one is refused money, we have a chance to get our request in. Fran said that the Civic Association is willing to put some seed money forward and asked how much is needed. \$5,000 was suggested. Arthur moved that we, UCCA, pledge up to \$5,000 seed money toward Planning Panel to pursue grant. Gary seconded, all voted in favor. Thanks were given to Panel for their work. Panel plans to ask for \$35,000 plus \$5,000 from UCCA. Sue Ann's email list is approved for use by the Panel. [If anyone is not receiving email notification of meetings, etc., please email sacousar@embarqmail.com to add your email address to the list.] Community Panel thanked UCCA for use of its website and would like to continue. Kristie is receiving notification of variance requests and would like to know how she/we should proceed with that.

Community Development- Ann Murphy: There was discussion about the Craven pool variance request, the process of an Island informational meeting before the variance hearing in town, as our new Community Plan requires. This was done in the case of the Craven variance There will be a site inspection by the county examiner. Discussion also about in the future how would Islanders be informed: first Art and Ann as Community Development Committee, then by mass email and the website? Community Development should review the variance request first. Question made about 100 ft. set back when most of our lots are only about 100'x100'. This code requirement is for rural one acre properties; this is an example of why we need to codify our Plan.

Membership – Karen Sirabian: Karen unable to attend. meeting There are now 147 members of UCCA.

Nominating Committee: There are three positions on the Board that expire in December. Marian Fuller is resigning from the Board; Sam Horsley will proceed with finding a slate of candidates to vote on at the December meeting.

Island Access – Art Mason: Mary Kinsey Finger was amenable to a long-term Island access agreement for the Barnacle Phil's dock at \$2,500 a year, with their option to move the access point if it became necessary in the future, but Eva rejected such an agreement. Mary proposed a 5 year lease agreement, which Arthur recommends that we accept. Also there has been a fee charged for those landing at Barnacle Phil's who are not

members of UCCA. Arthur moved that the President of UCCA be authorized to finalize negotiations with the Kinsey property owners for Island access rights for a 5 year period with further extensions to be determined. All voted in favor.

Lee County Sheriff: Bill Byrnes, who has been working on this, was not present. Sheriff's Department has been good about providing Island coverage during holiday weekends. UCCA was trying to expand this to include spring break. Capt. Sevelsky was on board with this. After he was let go by the County, Pineland Marina owner demanded he be reinstated, so the Sheriff moved the sub-station to Bokeelia. One issue was housing; Bill had informal agreement with Bryan Brillhart for a house at \$900 a month. The Sheriff understands we need better coverage and the deputies like coming out to the Island.

There was a question about Island Girl access to Pine Island. Emily is still in negotiation with Pineland about purchase of slips. There is discrepancy between what Pineland wants for their slips and the appraisal value.

New Business: We need to set a calendar of meetings. So far we have already set the next UCCA meeting for December 13.

Island Clean-up: Ann suggested Valentines Day and offered to chair the event. February 13 will be Island clean-up.

St. Patrick's Day fundraiser will be March 20. Joel Halberstadt agreed to co-chair the fundraiser with help from others.

Richard Pepper handed out a brief history of the Fire Department. The possibility exists that the UCFRD may have to go from a two-man to a four-man staff in the future. There may be an Island meeting later in the Spring to bring up this issue, as well as others, to the Island property owners. Everyone is invited to the Fire Commissioners meetings every second or third Saturday of the month. The last ISO inspection was 2003 and there's not another for several years. State certified volunteers used to be required to do 40 hours of training, but now 240 hours are required to certify volunteers, which four volunteers equal one professional.

Road Commission – Bert Trapanese: RC needs dirt and lots of it. Budget for 2009 was cut in half. Now RC is trying to find other, better ways to maintain the roads; looking for different piece of equipment more gentle on roads like a sand rake. Trimming of the roads is now necessary and annually. Some say the cost of trimming back should be the burden of the property owner, with the Fire Department sending a letter, do a lien, a difficult process.

Chief Pepper reported that there is a lot of overhang over the roads and what they need is 12'x12'. The Fire District has allocated funds to go to the Road Commission to oversee the trimming. There are multiple bids that come to \$14,000 and the FD allocated \$12,000. Would the UCCA be willing to contribute \$2,000 or \$1,500 for this? Bids are from Hipco for south of Safety Harbor Club and Island Ventures North of SHC. They will not be putting the mulch on the road but rather on the property where they cut. There is the possibility of digging a pit, putting the mulch in to make fill dirt. Kristie reminded RC to be careful of Gopher Tortoise burrows, and mentioned how Brazilian Pepper grows back after being trimmed. Island is going to have to kill it along the roadsides by poisoning or dig it up by the roots. Fran asked for a motion regarding Richard's request for funding. Joel "so moved". Question was asked: how much? \$2,000; Anne seconded, all voted in favor. [The motion was never stated but the secretary wrote it in the minutes thus: "Joel moved for UCCA to fund \$2,000 to the UCFRD for helping cut back vegetation from the roads."]

David Tompkins reported that before mid-November he will put out the Fall Newsletter; one of the parts is the membership solicitation to get it back by first of January. Also should think about an instant poll question. Fran suggested that we ask the members what they think is the next pressing issue for the Island.

Question about what happened with the garbage issue. Kristie said it was never pushed; the County presented a proposal, there was no follow-through.

Question asked about Fisherman's Co-op. Lee County is not pursuing us for the \$6 million they think we should reimburse them for. Zeke attended a County meeting and the subject was not brought up.

Question regarding rumor of Bryan Brillhart's purchase of a 49 passenger boat and plans to transport people back and forth to the Island. No confirmed information as to planned use of boat.

Canoe launch: Zeke and Marcia tried to get a canoe launch approved, but Marion Dobbs refused to sign waiver. Kristie said Santa is alive and well and gearing up for Christmas.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, secretary.