

Minutes of the March 9, 2014 General meeting

In attendance were Board Members Jacqueline Byrnes Pres., JoAnn Beiermeister V Pres., Fran Deture Treasurer, Ann Murphy Recording Sec., Sue Ann Cousar communications sec., Arthur Mason, Steve Muse, Helen Justice. Bill Fry attended by phone.

Membership - Roy Wildeman, Richard Pepper, Bill Byrnes, Barbara Miklavcic, Linda Deture, Marcia Andrews, Dave Tompkins, Glen Prater, Shirley Prater, Maxine Otis, Cora Ogle, Charles & Deb Skinner, Joel Halberstadt, Sam Horsley, Janet Cooksey, Homer Cooksey, AJ LaVallie, Erin LaVallie, Andrew Anderson, Steve Sward, Gene Murphy, Bob Maynard, Ron Glick, Helen Glick, Sandy Werner, Karen Sirabian, Howard Kulin, and Hanne Kulin.

President Jackie Byrnes called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM

Minutes were approved as read with the clarification that the 99% increase in insurance was from Citizen's and included all perils.

Treasurer's report- Fran is prepared to deposit a check in the landing acquisition fund which will bring the total in the account to \$57,858. There is \$23,312 in the checking acct. Holding the donation to the Landing Site account pending a report from Steve Muse.

Firebreak clearing- AJ LaVallie reported that the firebreak clearing by Island Volunteers was a huge success. On the day of the clearing from 9AM till Noon 30+ people showed up to help clear the firebreak with the permission of the State Park. Although Chief Pepper and Asst. Chief Bob Kinniry volunteered to help they were asked not to be present because of issues with the State Park. Thanks to Safety Harbor for volunteering the use of the chipper and three men to man it.

Fire Department report- Lee County EMS head Chief Scott Tuttle reports that the county is 100% behind us in our establishment of an ALS (advanced life support) capability on our Island. If we pass the referendum for the addition of two firefighters 24/7 we can then begin to process into having an ALS capability. There are expenses involved in procuring the necessary supplies and equipment needed, a 12 lead defibrillator as an example. If we were able to pass the referendum and secure 2 additional firefighters 24/7 and insure that at least one firefighter on each shift was a Paramedic approved by the Lee County Medical Director we could begin the stepped up process to becoming an ALS Unit.

Helicopter insurance- Air Methods has an insurance program that they would like to offer but it is being held up at the State level. Letters can be written to State Insurance Commissioner McCarthy to facilitate us getting Air Methods insurance for \$50.00. Letters can also be written to our local representatives in Tallahassee.

Roy Wildeman, a Fire Commissioner and their treasurer gave an explanation of the way Fishkind and Associates methodology has arrived at regarding the special assessment needed to double the District's manpower coverage to comply with ISO mandates. The current ad valorem tax for the fire dept. budget is .375% of property valuation of homes and land on the Island. Since this valuation has shrunk from \$285 million in 2007-2008 to \$159 million in 2014 the fire

department has had to increase the millage rate to the maximum permitted by law to maintain substantially the same budget for the past six years. In order to add two more fire fighters 24/7 to bring our ISO rating from a ten, which it will be with only two firefighters, to a four, which is the rating we would have if we had four responders, we need this additional special assessment.

The cost of adding the two additional part time Firefighters 24/7 with all associated costs will be \$447,000. The methodology used by Fishkind and Associates to arrive at the cost to each lot and homeowner is based on 712 lots, 334 lots with structures and 378 lots which are raw land. Each home and property owner was sent a letter with the assessment for their particular property. Please go to www.UCCA1.com the web site of the Upper Captiva Civic Association, which contains the assessment documents and the ISO report in their entirety and to the www.NCIslandNews.com published by William Fry to get a good understanding of the assessment and the ISO report and their consequence to you. To see how the failure to have four fighters will affect you please call your insurance provider and ask how having an ISO rating of 10 will impact your property insurance. Island residents who have called their providers have gotten answers ranging from 30% to 90% to cancellation.

Questions and a discussion followed the report and they were answered by both Roy Wildeman and Chief Pepper. Is the fire Department budgeted reserve being eroded? Yes, slowly. Can the special assessment be used for purposes other than specified? No. Will the special assessment remain at \$447,000 for its duration? No, hopefully with an increase in property values the fire Department budget can be increased through ad valorem taxes. This amount will be decided on a yearly basis by the Commissioners. Can monies from an increase in the ad valorem tax be used to build firehouse addition while keeping the assessment in place? It could be, but there is no plan to do this.

House numbers- Bill Byrnes reported that there are still at least 65 homes on the Island that do not have street numbers or whose numbers are not legible from the road. The UCRFD needs these street numbers so that they can quickly respond to emergency calls. (I have included the list as an attachment to the minutes. If you can not put the numbers up yourselves please ask a friend or neighbor or if you rent out your house ask your rental agent to do this for you. It is truly important.)

Bill on behalf of Jackie and himself and Karen Sirabian and Barry Bundrum, thanked all who helped with Island Cleanup. Danny Davenport provided garbage and recycling bag and removed the garbage from the Island. Barnacle's provided Beans and Rice for all volunteers. Thanks also to Tom Levin who along with Bob Maynard, Steve Muse and Andrew Anderson worked on a part of Rum Road to show how some road repair could be undertaken.

Proposed schedule of UCCA meetings - Fran Deture proposed that we eliminate the December meeting and let the St Pat's party count as the fourth meeting. It was approved unanimously.

St Patrick's Day Party- Chairman Andrew Anderson reported that all was progressing towards a great Carnival Style Party to be held at Barnacle's at 5:30 Monday, March 17th. There will be a 50-50 raffle, a wine raffle, games and more. There will be ticket sales at the firehouse and at

Barnacle's where tickets can be bought prior to the event for \$25. At the door they will be \$30. Any volunteers would be welcome.

Upper Captiva Road Commission- Sue Ann Cousar reported that despite several attempts no one from the road commission was available to attend the meeting. She reported that we have tried to get a representative to the last three meeting with no success. Peter Aldrian the new president just resent a previous message that he was not free to attend. John Porter was the only one to respond and he said that Peter was appointed according to their by-laws. They have had no public meeting for the last two years. John Porter told her that when he left the board there was \$16,000 in their treasury- John has resigned from the board and is no longer involved in the Road commission. The current Road Commission Officers are: Peter Aldrian - President, Jeff Henderson, and Bryan Brillhart. Tom Levin and Richard Lewis still consider themselves as board members. NCIC members got a newsletter asking them to send \$100.00 to the new not for profit Road Commission. Charles Skinner says that he was approached by Peter Aldrian to be on the board because they wanted people with clout and they did not want Tom Levin and Richard Lewis to remain. Charles feels that we need to send a letter with teeth to ask for a proper accounting of the money that was paid in by the members. The Road Commission filed for reinstatement as a corporation with the Fla. Dept. of State. The monies from the old organization were moved to the new organization. Helen Justice reported that 4 loads of shell were delivered to Loggerhead Barges Site to be delivered to and paid for by the RC. Helen was told to send the bill to Jane Henderson as representative of the RC.

Fran moved and Helen Justice and JoAnn Beiermeister seconded that we hire an attorney with the purpose of sending a letter to John Porter the past Treasurer to ask for the status of the account and who he turned it over to when he resigned, and to copy Peter Aldrian. Approved with Arthur Mason abstaining and \$1,000.00 was approved as the expense. Charles Skinner added an additional \$1,000 to help cover costs.

Steve Muse reported that a beach lot owned by Andy Fuxa was going up for tax auction with a minimum bid of \$27,000 dollars. The lot is not currently buildable. It was suggested the UCCA buy the lot to provide additional beach access for the Island. It is in front of the Coastal Construction Control Line but there is a chance that if others buy it they will close it as a beach access. There is a second lot that will also be going up for auction to the south of this lot the taxes have been delinquent since 2008. Arthur Mason questioned whether there was a period of redemption. Charles Skinner said that he knows that other states have this but he is not sure about Florida. Steve suggested that we bid to a \$31,000.00 cap. Jackie Byrnes seconded approved with Arthur Mason abstaining. Fran Deture needs to register for the auction

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is on April 13th.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Murphy

Recording Secretary of the UCCA