

Minutes of UCCA meeting December 13, 2009, 11:00am
at Safety Harbor Clubhouse

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

Also present: Deane & Sandra Richardson, Marcia Andrews, Charles Brazik, Dave Tompkins, Katie Walsh, Marc Broxmeyer, Richard Pepper, Barbara Miklavcic, Louis Silverstein, Peter & Laura Moehrke, Bert Tapanese, Maxine Otis, Donna Ellswick, June & Hart Kelly, Allen Aulen, Kristie Anders.

President Fran DeTure called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the October 25, 2009, meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Gary Fisher: As of 11-30-09 the checking account has \$5,667.03; Money Market account has \$31,426.35; two CD's totaling \$45,000 comes to \$82,093.38. The Upper Captiva Community Center Foundation has \$6,443.40. As of 12-13-09 we have 70 paid new members for 2010.

Community Planning Panel - Kristie Anders: The next meeting of the Planning Panel will be Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 10:00 at Safety Harbor Clubhouse. The results of the last survey were almost evenly split, with 51% saying keep the same Panel members. At the next meeting, after establishing the by-laws, they will vote to fill the one vacant seat on the Panel. Kristie delivered a grant request for \$30,000 to the County. Although the twin cities of Olga and Alva did each receive a \$50,000 grant for implementing their plan, because Captiva did not spend all their money before it sunsetted, there is still hope that we will receive our grant request. There is a county process called EAR, Evaluation and Recommendations, which goes to the state of Florida every 5 or 10 years and they are in the process of that so money could come from that. Fran commented that he thought Bob Pritt said that the County was legally obligated to give us money to complete the next step. Fran reminded everyone that the Civic Association pledged \$5,000 for code writing, but this money has not been spent yet. Ours was the only grant request that did not go empty-handed to the County.

Community Development - Arthur Mason: There was a variance request made by the Cravens to install a swimming pool within 2 feet of the property line that was not passed by the County. There was a meeting held on the Island, as our Community Plan requires, before the County hearing. At that time the County's position was to grant the variance, but after considering our Plan and a site visit, the Examiner changed her position and denied the variance for the pool. There is now another variance request by the Sepes, and their architect, Chuck Newman, has set an informational meeting for January 9, 2010, at 12 noon on the property in question at 4510 Hidden Lane. The Sepes are wanting to add another floor to the existing house, but because the County originally allowed the house to be built only 15 feet from the property line instead of 20 feet, they are requesting a variance to permit the expansion upward.

Membership: Notices went out with the last Newsletter soliciting memberships for 2010. [You may mail your \$50 check to UCCA, PO Box 423, Pineland FL 33945, to join.]

Nominating: Marian Fuller has resigned both from the Board and the nominating committee since she is no longer on the Island, and Jackie Byrnes has agreed to serve the remainder of her Board term - one year. Sam Horsley reported that Joel Halberstadt, Ann Murphy, and Sue Ann Cousar are completing their terms at the end of this year but have agreed to serve another three year term and he offered their names as the slate to vote on. No nominations from the floor. Arthur moved that we adopt the slate of candidates for Board members as submitted by Sam; Gary seconded. All voted in favor. The whole membership then voted in favor of the slate. There was some discussion of how many terms a Board member could serve, but after consulting the By-laws, it was verified that there is no limit to how many three-year terms one may serve.

Road Commission - Bert Trapanese: The UCRC is trying to spread fill dirt where needed around and they are making the roads a little narrower. They think they have enough funds to get through the year, but their eventual goal is to get their funding from the Fire Board through property taxes. [See detailed letter from UCRC emailed on Dec. 10 for full explanation.] There has been discussion about whose responsibility it is to keep vegetation trimmed back from the roads. Fire Board is waiting for legal opinion on this question from their attorney.

Fire Department - Richard Pepper: Richard recalled that the St. Pa'ts Fundraiser used to be for the benefit of the Fire Department, before it was funded by taxes. There was general discussion about who should benefit from the Fundraiser. It was pointed out that UCCA regularly votes to help various organizations with their projects. The significant bank balance of UCCA is being held for some bigger projects, such as permanent Island-owned access or Community Center. Hart spoke on how he removed the Road Commission from the Fundraiser and

began soliciting funds directly from property owners and doesn't think UCRC should return to old way, as they are providing well for the roads. Dave opined that it is better not to set a % to give to different entities but rather vote use of funds on a case by case basis. Richard Pepper finished telling about the UCFRD's plan to host a forum possibly the first weekend in March. Proposed agenda: Mission of UCFRD, commissioners' responsibilities, personnel requirements, budget and audit process, future plans. More info later.

Island Access - Arthur Mason: Arthur will meet with Grant and Mary Finger with legal document in hand for signing, giving Islanders an access point for 5 years, at approximately \$2,500 a year, free use by UCCA members. Others may negotiate with the Kinsey family.

Lee County Sheriff: Marine division is still in some turmoil, but County still planning on providing deputy on Island for holidays. Pineland sub-station has been closed.

Canoe Launch: Zeke has resigned from this project. Marion Dobbs has refused to sign waiver. Chief Pepper proposed that the property at the end of Hidden Lane be used as a draft point for the Fire Dept. Permission from DEP to clear about 6 feet of mangroves would be needed, but it could still be used as a canoe launch even without a dock. Mrs. Dobbs property is for sale.

Next meeting of UCCA will be January 31, 2010 [date has been verified]. Island Clean-up will be February 13 and St. Pat's Fundraiser March 20, 2010. The Board will meet in early January to elect officers, prepare a budget, and deal with mechanics of St. Pat's and Phone book. Meeting date will be announced later and anybody is welcome to attend.

Katie brought up her belief that a packet of information about native vegetation is needed and asked if the UCCA would be willing to do such a project. Suggested that first step, however, should be killing of non-native vegetation. Katie is willing to co-ordinate. Dave said that the printing of such a packet would not be expensive but the break down is in the follow-through.

Hart asked about dead Australian Pines on the state Park which is a fire hazard; Parks has no plans to do anything about it. The fire break on south side of Panama Shell has begun to grow over and needs to be maintained. We need a bush-hog blade for tractor to maintain fire break and Richard is looking into that. Chief Richard Pepper announced that on Monday, Dec.21, at 4:30pm at the fire station is the annual fire extinguisher exercise that the general public is invited to.

Kristie announced that Santa is coming to the Island on Christmas Eve between 6-8:00pm. If you want him to visit your house email Kristie at kanders@sccf.org or phone 239-472-9750.

Also Christmas Eve join us for caroling around the Island beginning at the Cousars' home at 4:30pm at 4580 Hidden Lane. Song sheets will be provided. Let Sue Ann know if you would like for us to carol at your house.

Christmas Day evening at 7:30pm there will be a Christmas worship celebration at 4580 Hidden Lane. Everyone is invited.

Refreshments after the meeting were provided by the Cousars and the Horsleys.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Cousar, UCCA secretary