

MINUTES OF SMKA MEETING Monday, November 17, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Stump at 2:00PM. He welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Stan Parker, who, with his customary levity, introduced guest speaker, Representative Gordon Baer, Charlotte County Sheriff's office Crime Prevention Practitioner.

GUEST SPEAKER

Officer Baer explained that the Cuban refugee problem began when Castro opened the Cuban prisons in 1959 and sent the inmates to Florida. In 1995 the US agreed to accept Cubans who managed to land on US territory but not those interdicted at sea – the wet-foot/dry-foot rule. Since then an industry in human trafficking has evolved, often run by Cuban Americans, using stolen "cigarette boats". Customarily a Miami area issue, they are now using our area as drop-off points, and crime is increasing as "customers" need cash to pay for their passage. 2140 "dry-foot" individuals were accepted this year, while 1000 "wet-foot" individuals were returned to Cuba. Officer Baer asked everyone to be vigilant and report sightings of such things as heavier than normal boats, excessive gasoline being purchased (particularly in "bladder-type" containers, boats with a large number of passengers or electronic equipment, and attempted theft of boats, motors, or propellers. He cautioned everyone to stay clear of these people and to call the following numbers:

239-463-5754, 239-707-3818, 941-639-0013, or, simply, 911. Report any suspicious activity.

SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The minutes from the last meeting were summarized.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balance in the Treasury is \$9803.49.

BY-LAWS REVISION

Randy Dahl presented the major changes in and reasons for revising the By-Laws. There was concern and discussion about proxy voting for major unanticipated issues, and a committee was formed to formulate a proxy system. A motion was passed to add the Chairman of MASKAC to the Board of Directors. With that change the By-Laws were adopted.

MSTU/BEAUTIFICATION

In Mike McClain's absence, the Chairman reported on ongoing projects of MSTU. Permitting problems have delayed execution of the first stage of the drainage project. Stage one will go out for bid in the next couple of weeks and work should begin in late 2008 or early 2009.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BJ Galbraith reported that MASKAC had done a structural re-write of the Overlay Code this summer, although County Staff and Legal had suggested some major changes, some of which were contrary to the best interests of the residents. She said further communication will be forthcoming, and email support as well as attendance at the Commission meetings may be needed.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Wayne Largent explained how easily local ordinances can be changed and recommended vigilance in staying on top of issues. He asked for one volunteer to attend the monthly Board of County Commission land-use meeting to protect the interests of our area.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked for a Nominating Committee to create a slate of officers for next year. BJ Galbraith, Randy Dahl, and Janet Potts volunteered.

The membership voted unanimously to forego a December meeting.

Ron Schroeder, a 20 year resident complained about an \$83 ticket for parking in the Chadwick Beach lot while having dinner at a local restaurant. He said there was no visible notice or warning about paid parking at night. The president agreed to bring this ongoing issue to the attention of the County and to address it at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm. The next meeting will be January 12, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Sue Carroll, Secretary