

June 2020, Coconut Telegraph

Important information in this issue you won't want to miss!

- **Golf Carts and Children**
- **Red Tide Studies and Respiratory Forecasts**
- **Membership Reminder**
- ** Environmental**
- ** LGIFR Update**

The LGPOA held a working board meeting on June 4th, 2020 to meet the new board members and catch everyone up on old and discuss new business. The minutes from the meeting will be posted at lgpoa.org within the two weeks necessary according to the bylaws and below:

LGPOA BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

June 4, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was just called to order by President Richard Leydon at 5:04 PM at the Placida Beach condos clubhouse.

PRESENT

Board members present were Richard Leydon, Paul Holmes, Deric Flom, Roy Petteway, Joe Bokar and Barb Dwyer. Rhonda Olson was present by phone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve was made by Paul Holmes and seconded by Roy Petteway.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Holmes reported that the bank account has \$22,900 currently with 209 members paid during the 2020 membership drive so far. Security for this year's Fourth of July holiday was discussed, and Paul said that \$9900 was allocated in

2019 with only \$7000 of that spent. It is expected to remain the same as last year. Paul received an invoice for the LGPOA website domain registration. Dawn Bokar was asked to contact Kalindi to verify authenticity of the invoice and ask about any updates that can or should be made to our website.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP

Dawn Bokar reported that she had received mailed membership forms from Paul Holmes and would be entering, checking new memberships and updating the database to be sure that it was up to date with current residents and current members of the LGPOA. Discussion was had to set a deadline for current members to renew and that date was set for June 30, after which unpaid memberships would be removed from the mailing list to receive the Coconut Telegraph. Dawn also reported that online memberships were down from prior years as most people have chosen to mail in their registration.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Fire Chief Bill Underhill updated the board on the status of certification for turtle patrol for LGI. Chief Bill is trying to get a Palm Island turtle patrol to allow the LGI turtle patrol to work under their certification for this year.

NEW BUSINESS

VIRUS ON THE ISLAND

Richard Leydon raised concern about the number of people who came to the island seeking refuge from Covid 19 and what, if anything, could be done to avoid that and keep full-time island residents safe in the event of another pandemic.

JULY 4th EVENTS

Discussion regarding 4th of July festivities concluded with this year's Fourth of July festivities not being sanctioned by the LGPOA due to the Coronavirus. It was unanimous that the LGPOA does not associate itself with any planned group

activities. The LGIFR meeting is next week and they will decide if they want to support or sponsor any group activities or children's activities.

CHILDREN AND GOLF CARTS

Many underage children are driving golf carts on the island and creating hazards for people walking and other drivers. After input from board members, the LGPOA position on this issue to ask Deputy Prummell to be more aggressive and follow the age 14 rule and encourage him to give written warnings.

PILINGS

Joe Bokar reported that after multiple calls over the last several months, he has still not received a reply to his messages. Joe reported that pilings 4 and 7 have not been replaced to date. Richard was going to look for additional contact information and forward it Joe.

COUNTY LANDING AREA

Truex's office has been in contact with Richard regarding the proposed expansion of the County landing area and would like public input at a meeting at the San Casa offices. Richard indicated David Haynes was knowledgeable in this area and would talk to him about attending. He emphasized the importance of finding solutions for the barge and parking issues that will impact the island before long.

ILLEGAL BUSINESSES ON THE ISLAND

Concern about the growing number of businesses on the island was discussed by the board, no resolution was found but the board decided to table the topic and discuss again in the future.

RED TIDE AND WATER STUDIES

Richard talked about two research studies he is involved in, one for Red Tide's effects on people and a water study of different locations around the island and nearby waterways. He will forward contact information to Rhonda for inclusion in the Coconut Telegraph to get more people involved.

FUTURE MEETINGS

It was discussed that four public meetings be held each fiscal year per the LGPOA. However, dates were not determined for future meetings due to restrictions mandated by the governor.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Leydon and seconded by Paul Holmes at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Bokar

****Golf Carts and Children**

From LGPOA President, Richard Leydon:

Last year the main north/south artery of our island was closed due to liability issues caused by the unsupervised operation of golf carts by under aged children. It was finally opened again, months later, because of the kindheartedness of a property owner. We have recently seen a dramatic increase in the number of under aged children operating golf carts without supervision. We have again entered a period of potential road closure due to the liability imposed by such operators. In these times of litigious fancy, private property owners have the right to be concerned about such matters occurring on their property. Due to this issue the LGPOA voted unanimously to have the island deputy stop and issue warnings to offending golf cart operators. Multiple warnings will ultimately lead to citations being written. The Florida state law requires golf cart operators to be 14 years of age or older.

To homeowners and renters I would say this; golf carts are not babysitters or toys to drive in. It is a privilege to drive on this island and the private roads, which cross people's private property. Please consider the safety of your children, and the fate of our main access roadway, before you let your underage children operate a golf cart.

****Red Tide Studies**

From LGPOA President, Richard Leydon:

Roskamp Red Tide Study

My son and I traveled to the Roskamp Institute in Sarasota to start participating in a red tide study investigating the health impact of environmental toxins. Our blood was drawn to determine a baseline and it's our understanding the rest of the study will be mostly completed with online questionnaires.

The Roskamp Institute is looking for more volunteers to participate as well. Contact Megan at 941-256-8019, ex 30986 if you are interested.

HABscope Study - Real Time Respiratory Forecast

The county asked our island to participate in a HABscope study. The goal is to give them real time data using Bluetooth to report red tide densities in our local waters. This can help forecast respiratory irritations. More information will follow!

****Membership Reminder**

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

If you haven't submitted your membership renewal, save a stamp and use the link at www.lgpoa.org/membership!

****Environmental Update**

From Bill Underhill:

The sea turtle permit for LGI is still a work in progress. During this time we are not allowed to do anything with the turtles per FWC. Do not stake or mark the nests.

****Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)

The burn ban is lifted.

From Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

Some people still see the need to burn their garbage while they are on island. This is not going to continue! It is against state law to burn any plastic, rubber, vinyl, or household garbage. If it is not a wood product, do not burn it. Warnings are over, I've told several people two and three times to stop, law enforcement will be notified and citations issued accordingly.

In the past three weeks there have been four people that drowned in the immediate area. Two of these were reported to be children. Keep your kids or anyone who can't swim close to you. Use a life vest or some kind of ATTACHED floatation system. A raft is not a proper system, as one of the victims fell off their raft while floating and was unable to get back on.



Please feel free to email me at twrhonda@gmail.com with any information you'd like circulated in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of the month. Content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Rhonda Olson