

CGPOA ANNUAL MEETING 1/26/19

Location- 489 Sawyer Drive (Donna Coon's Patio)

Two officers were present: President Woody Hutchinson, & Treasurer Inca Schultz
Board members present: Dan Border, David Dornseif, Walt Drabinski, Pat Greeley, Pete Pedersen, Richard Schugar, and Mark Scott

Assistant Directors present: Cindy Dresow, Randy McDonald, & Jo Socha

Meeting called to order at 1:20 PM by President, Woody Hutchinson.

Woody presented a gift certificate and "Thank You" document to Donna Coon for hosting this and many Annual Meetings & Snowbird Parties.

Woody expressed "Thank you's" to Jo Socha, Nancy Andrews, and Dan Border for organizing clean-ups for Cudjoe Gardens, and our shoreline, since hurricane Irma.

The Sheriff and his department were thanked for keeping us safe.

New residents, Ron Johnson and Ron & Georgia Serna were asked to stand to be introduced.

There was no old business.

A \$500 check was presented from CGPOA to FIRM (Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe County), and accepted by Theresa Faber.

FIRM has negotiated 10% insurance rate increases down to 5%. Theresa explained that FEMA has been re-mapping the Keys, which will increase insurance rates for many. FIRM, headed by Commissioner Heather Carruthers, is developing more realistic re-mapping, requiring engineers and experts.

Theresa thanked Woody for teaching many CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes since the hurricane.

Sheriff Rick Ramsay was welcomed; he spoke highly of our Cudjoe Gardens community. Sheriff Ramsay stated that since Hurricane Irma, his department is short staffed, mostly due to the high rent and housing costs. Police who would like to work in his department cannot find affordable housing. Right now, 44 policemen are "bunking" at the County jail. Sheriff Ramsey was pleased to report that Monroe County crime went down 16.3% this past year. The crime solving "Clearance Rate" has increased to 38.5%. These are state tallies; the numbers are accurate. Rick Ramsey has been Monroe County Sheriff for 6 years. Every year, he's returned unneeded money back to the county, between \$1.5 million and \$2.6 annually. Jail space is rented out to other counties, resulting in profit. The Trauma Star helicopter fleet profited \$1.3 million, even though Monroe County residents receive free air ambulance service. Trauma star bills residents' insurance companies, or medicare. One thousand people were air-lifted to Miami last year, with one third of them being car or boat accident victims.

Captain Donnie Catala stated that traffic on US1 is one of our biggest problems. Lt. Dennis Coleman stated he was pleased to be stationed on Cudjoe for the second year. Both officers welcomed questions and comments.

New Business:

Woody stated that the lighted Christmas decorations on the poles at the entrances to Colson, Sawyer, and Drost Drives had been purchased for a 10 year run, with the power company putting them up and taking them down each season.

Walt Drabinski commented on the design of the proposed house (intended to house a police family) just SW of the Sheriff substation on 1st Ave W. The plan is a 1,000 sq ft. "pillbox", with no windows on the E or W side. Walt wants a better design to be the first house seen as we enter Cudjoe Gardens.

Woody stated that presently 7 new homes are under construction, or will soon be started, within Cudjoe Gardens.

Mark Scott commented on light pollution problems, usually by renters, or those unaware that many of us enjoy looking at the night sky. Light Pollution Handouts are available to tuck in a neighbor's door, if he has his exterior lights pointed toward your bedroom window. Such problems can usually be remedied by installing "motion detector" lights.

Woody said the ballots had been tallied. He announced the new board for 2019: Treasurer Chris Cauley, Corresponding Secretary Jan Edelstein, Recording Secretary Cindy Dresow, and the following Directors: Mary Bell, Dan Border, Greg Daniels, David Dornseif, Walt Drabinski, Omar Fernandez, Pete Pedersen, and Rich Schugar. Assistant Directors: Randy McDonald & Jo Socha.

Being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 1:43. Snowbird Party immediately followed.

(Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dresow, 2019 Recording Secretary)