

Bokeelia Civic Association
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OFFICERS

President - Dr. Michael Dreikorn	Treasurer - Robert Montgomery
1 st Vice President - Bob Glennon	Secretary -
2 nd Vice President - John Cammick	Director - Bob Johnson
WEBSITE: www.bokeeliafl.com	Director - Genevera Koonce

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
April 13, 2009

1. Call to Order – Michael Dreikorn
2. Business Meeting (brief) – Michael Dreikorn The meeting was attended by more than 40 people including members, residents, fishermen, guides, etc., from Bokeelia, Pine Island and Cape Coral.
3. Michael Dreikorn introduced the Speaker, Mr. Joe DeBacker, Senior Supervisor, Greater Pine Island Parks (Lee County). (Sally and Vince Tappager from Tropic Star were also on the agenda but only Vince responded to questions in the last half of the meeting.)
4. Questions & Answers – Joe DeBacker said he did not have a formal presentation so he would answer all inquiries and comments. He did comment on the poor condition of the present ramp, very steep and a hole at the bottom. Renovations were suppose to start April 1st but the latest estimate was June 1st. It will be closed for six months. When the new ramp is opened the decals will not be honored. He said there will be 23 spaces and the county says we have no choice.
5. Inquiries and comments from members and guests–
 - a. I am a commercial fisherman and the new rates will cost me \$150 per week to park. .
 - b. Those who power on the ramp are destroying it. Joe said we had a problem with powering on before Tropic Star came in. Member - This is a matter of enforcement. Tropic Star is taking on no responsibility. Joe said they are under contract for 5 years and they are already in year two The county gets half of the boat ramp fee. Fees for launching and parking is set by the county.
 - c. Joe is not making decisions for the county. The real solution is to be there before the decisions are made. Fisherman - we were not aware of the meetings, there were not published notices. AIM Engineering does what

the county wants they to do. Lavender does what they want. The boats for the cottages is going to fill the capacity of the parking. AIM Engineering does not do ramps.

- d. The county needs to have an open meeting for the residents and fishermen. They need to bring this back to the people who need to use the ramp (the residents of Lee County and the residents of Bokeelia). You should not move forward until you have a public meeting for the community.
- e. Genevra – How many parking spaces were there before? Answer - The west side was storage. Do you have all your DEP permits? Joe - I think we do. What are the hours of operation? Answer – 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The county hours are 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- f. There is a delicate balance with neighbors and the boaters. Unless you get the fishermen and the residents together and then design it (there will be problems). The homeowners said “...leave it as it is.”
- g. Jim Looney, resident on the canal: I am the most impacted person in this room (by the ramp). The hours have changed. People are coming out up to 1:00 a.m. in the morning. We have drunk boaters who are tearing up my docks. They have left their boats rapping up against my posts. I smell dead fish. They don’t know what a “no wake” zone is. I have dept my patience. The commercial fishermen should have first preference for parking space. Answer: Joe- The double ramp is going to help with the exit of the ramp. We are not going to have a fish cleaning table when it is reopened.
- h. Looney – On Saturday (holiday weekend) there were wakes, drunks, loud voices. I politely asked people on Easter weekend to hold their boats off our dock. Some did but mostly they did not.
- i. Fisherman (from Cape Coral): I fish every weekend. When there was an officer at the house there were no wakes.
- j. Fisherman: Launching used to be free. Then we had to pay for launching and parking. I paid for a sticker to use the ramp. The county does not know what a contract is. Joe: We sold decals to everyone, whether they are residents or not.
- k. John Turner (resident on canal): Boaters are going up the canal at full boar. They threaten me. I try to get them to slow down. I spent \$2200 replacing seams in my seawalls. It is from the wakes. Drunks come all night long. Why don’t you close the ramp down at sundown like you said you would? Joe: People don’t respect the facility. Someone needs to settle those people down. Michael Dreikorn: It sounds like restitution for seawalls and pilons might be needed for the citizens of Bokeelia. This information needs to be brought back to the county.
- l. Fisherman: Why is it necessary to pave the parking lot? It was suggested that the lot not be paved. If you put the ramp at 30 degrees you are going to have to back up putting the car further in the water. You could pave another slab beyond what is there. It will be fine.
- m. Fisherman: The fact that you are only going to have 23 spaces, you don’t need two ramps. Drop that down to 40 parking spaces. Extend the ramp.

Joe: We have had people go past the ramp and their axles come off when they try to pull out. Matlacha ramp is 12 degrees, Bokeelia is 16 degrees and Pine Island is shallower

- n. Joe: If you see someone causing a wake you should take down their boat number and email or call Joe DeBacker.
- o. Vince from Tropic Star chose to speak: We have not changed anything. Everyone said “keep the cottages”. We pay all the utilities and expenses. We get 50% of the profits.
- p. Robert Montgomery: We had these discussions. Enforcement came up over and over. This time the discussion is capacity. The issues in the past were parking, etc. Vince you said you try to enforce most of the rules but cannot write a ticket. You have serious enforcement issues. Vince does not have the authority to write tickets. Last year they were parking on the street. This issue of enforcement needs to be dealt with. We must change something. We cannot expect the vendor to take care of it. We need to put larger men rather than women for enforcement. The bathrooms do not work.
- q. The loud partying at night is from the cottages. Tropic Star is the only one who benefits from the office. County taxpayers paid for this ramp.

Summary

1. The BCA is for the citizens of Bokeelia. The issues are irresponsible boaters, the need for community policing. Boaters need to be stopped and told that they are doing something wrong.
2. The Parks Department is trying to improve the situation but cannot write tickets.
3. Restitution by the county should be considered.
4. We need a Community Committee to create a brochure to tell boaters and guests at the cottages what the rules are and tell them who to call.
5. We had three meetings regarding the Bokeelia Boat Ramp it is now time to talk to the county. Lavender should be contacted, they asked the residents as to what they wanted. They have done what they said they were going to do. We wanted to get the traffic down.
6. There needs to be accountability. What are you going to do when it is cut down to 23 spaces? This past weekend Pineland said they still had room for 50 spaces.
7. Fisherman Carlisle: Call the County Commission to bring this back up for discussion and invite residents, boaters, law enforcement, etc. On May 9 Caompas Construction will have their last term of the contract. They will have to do a new RFP. The county is looking for more access and it is insane to cut the parking . It doesn't make sense.
8. **MOTION**: Marilyn made a motion that the County be asked to have an open meeting to discuss the Bokeelia Boat Ramp. That invitations be specifically be extended to the residents, Tropic Star, the commercial and recreational fishermen, guides, County and Law Enforcement and that notices be sent to the News-Press, Pine Island Eagle and Breeze, civic

associations and be posted on all Pine Island boat ramps. Robert Montgomery seconded and motion carried.

9. Actions
 - a. Michael Dreikorn, BCA President, will send a letter to the County Commissioners with copies to the various departments.
 - b. Set up proposed public meeting regarding Bokeelia Boat Ramp.
10. Updates
 - i. Mango Mania liquor license – Sally Lamberg
 - ii. Letter from Bokeelia Boat Club regarding the Bokeelia Boat Ramp.
11. Adjourn