



Islamorada, Village of Islands

SPECIAL CALL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING FILLS WORKSHOP

May 16, 2023 - 6:00 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Pinder called meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pinder said a short prayer.

III. AGENDA: Requests for Deletion / Emergency Additions

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III announced Regular Village Council Meeting on May 25, 2023 had been canceled.

Mayor Pinder relinquished control of the meeting to Councilmember Henry Rosenthal who explained the format as an open meeting, with informal protocol and open dialogue. It was noted that the Fills is an area between Upper & Lower Matecumbe where fill was put in for the construction of the railroad in the early 20th century.

IV. WORKSHOP

A. Overview of Fills

1. Aerials
2. Discussion with FDOT

Village Manager Ted Yates referred to an aerial overview of Indian Key, Tea Table, and Lignumvitae. He noted CPH would work on final site plan to provide to FDOT.

Barry Wray provided public comment.

C. Survey Results - TAB 1

1. Presentation by Carlos G

CarlosG noted there were 1178 responses to the recent Fills survey.

Tom Raffanelo, Van Cadenhead, Alina Davis, Joan Scholz, Robert Moser, Claire Johnson, Sue Miller, Captain Aleo, Dave Petkovitch, Neil Voice, and Joe

Wischmeier voiced their opposition to improvements that encourage usage of the area for anything other than a roadway.

John Fernandez, Angel Borden, Rebeca & Brett Callahan, and Barbara Edgar spoke in favor of minimal improvements for short usage periods.

B. Agency Representatives

1. District Six Secretary Stacy Miller
2. DEP - Lu Dodson
Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Park Manager
3. DEP - Nicholas Parr
Sanctuary Liaison and Aquatic Preserve Manager
4. Greg Veliz - FCAA Executive Director

FDOT District Six Secretary Stacy Miller summarized the lease provisions and noted signage and any barriers other than the current traffic cones need FDOT approval and must meet its criteria. It was noted that any improvements to the area required engineering plan approval to move forward.

Councilmember Henry Rosenthal asked how to proceed if the Village wanted to remove cones, Secretary Miller stated that would require a request to modify the Village's lease of the area.

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III noted the Fills were part of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage and SUN Trail systems.

Joe Wishmeir, Angel Borden, Ed Davidson, Van Cadenhead, Tom Raffanelo, Ziggy Schoz, and Dave Petkovitch provided public comment.

Councilmember Elizabeth Jolin asked for council consensus on the plan moving forward with key issues.

D. CPH Site Plans - **TAB 2**

Proposed changes were summarized as follows:

Tea Table: Remove most amenities, no pedestrian path, no kayak launch, and bike path plan to come later. Council consensus was to remove all parking.

Indian Key: Two existing monuments oceanside, remove north end parking spots. It was noted that DEP may want the boat ramp reestablished with limited trailer parking.

Lignumvitae: parking removed, turn lanes removed, no swimming signs. It was noted a large-scale MOA landscaping project with FDOT would include the area. Bike Path improvements could be grant-funded, and post/rope would be an ideal barrier.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT - Allowed throughout workshop.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Mahoney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.