

From: Bruce Neill [<mailto:bruce@sanibelseaschool.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 9:25 PM
To: Judie A. Zimomra; Judie A. Zimomra
Subject: Special Event Permit Request before City Council

Ms. Zimomra,

Pursuant to our conversation today, I would like to make a request to City Council, on behalf of Sanibel Sea School to host more than 6 special events at our 455 Periwinkle Way office.

We would like to hold small lectures about the marine natural resources of Sanibel targeted for adults. We could offer these classes in our Lagoon Drive building, but by utilizing our commercial, administrative space on Periwinkle Way, we can minimize the impact to our neighbors and reduce side-street traffic.

These lectures are very small events and likely will not have more than 20 participants per session. They would not require, signage, special parking or anything that would be different than our ordinary operations at our location.

Thank you very much for your considerations in this matter.

Bruce Neill

J. Bruce Neill, Ph.D.

Ocean Advocate and Executive Director



Our vision is a world where all people value, understand and care for the ocean.

P.O. Box 1229 - 414 Lagoon Drive - Sanibel, FL 33957

Phone: 239.472.8585



Gentlemen,

I wanted to advise you that I will appear before City Council next week, on behalf of Sanibel Sea School, to request more than 6 special event permits per year.

We are looking for special events for two functions.

1) We are offering daytime classes on the marine environment of Sanibel during the daytime. We are permitted to hold these classes in our Lagoon Drive building. However, we would like to hold these classes in our Periwinkle building so that we can minimize their potential impact to our residential neighbors and minimize secondary street traffic.

2) We are offering a series (5) of free community lectures about the ocean that are open to the public in the evenings. We do not anticipate more than 20 people would be in attendance. We are not permitted to hold these in our Lagoon building (our permit restricts our operations to daytime lectures), but again we would like to hold these in our Periwinkle building to minimize impact to our neighbors. The lectures will begin at 7:00 pm and be over by 8:30.

If you would like further clarification, or to discuss this request, please give me a call. My cell is 223-4311.

Thank you very much for your time.

Bruce Neill

J. Bruce Neill, Ph.D.

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City of Sanibel City Council
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957

January 28, 2014

Dear Councilmen:

It has come to our attention through a Sea School e-mail and an advertisement in the Island Sun that the Sea School is offering adult evening lectures to the general public free of charge for five consecutive Thursdays beginning February 13, 2014. I spoke with Ms. Terri Cummins, code enforcement officer yesterday and she informed me that she saw a request to the City Council from the Sea School for a Special Events Permit for evening events to be considered at the February 4th meeting. I couldn't find an agenda for that meeting posted as yet. It is our understanding that there couldn't be a Special Events Permit at the Periwinkle Building without changing the usage to educational purposes. Therefore the lectures would be held at the original 414 Lagoon Drive location. However the 2008 Commission Resolution allows operation here only from 8AM to 6PM Monday through Saturday.

Parking is limited to 9 spaces including one handicap accessibility, "unless the applicant seeks an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit, or obtains a Special Events Permit from the city that includes an approved plan for parking of participant's vehicles." Of the nine spaces, three of them have always been occupied by buses, two occupied by trailers with racks loaded with watercraft, and no provision for special need space. At best there is room for three other vehicles. The building on Periwinkle has only 12 spaces including one for special needs. This leaves eleven plus three for the entire property. How do adults arrive but by vehicle? Adult courses could also include folks with special needs.

We are very concerned as to what they will petition the Council at the February 4 meeting. In the past, 2008, a benign meeting announcement concerning extending a temporary Conditional Use Permit for two years resulted in: 1. Issuance of a permanent Conditional Use Permit, 2. An increase in the building occupancy from 30 to 34, including children and adult participants and 5 faculty/employees/volunteers, 3. Approval of onsite overnight storage of student and canoe transport vehicles, which resulted in the permanent storage of three diesel busses and two trailers with a total of 47 watercraft on the property. The hours of operation were not changed. As the neighbors were unaware of the intent of the meeting there was no opposition, to the surprise of some of the Commissioners.

Evening gatherings will bring traffic problems, noise, increase lighting and heightened activity to our otherwise quiet neighborhood. The Sea School has outgrown the neighborhood and threatens to change the footprint of the historic East End. Parking has always been a problem and will never improve. We need people to be aware of our concerns regarding irreversible decisions that will ruin the neighborhood. We are not willing to go quietly into the night in the name of corporate sprawl right here on Sanibel. There are better locations than Old Town.

Thank you all for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
David and Roberta Conrad, Sanibel Residents, 411 Lagoon Drive
239-395-2048 e-mail: D31241@aol.com



Island House

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CITY OF SANIBEL
ADMIN./LEGIS.

January 28, 2014

To: Sanibel City Council

From: DAVIS & PATRICIA Thurber

Subject: Sea School Expansion - Special Events Permit

As property owners across the street from the Sanibel Sea School, we are concerned with regard to plans for possible future expansion, particularly now with regard to any evening events, which would have a high impact in a residential area, that would be brought on by increased traffic, parking and noise. Also, we must consider the negative effect on the turtle refuge which is right next door. Our neighbors, Dr. and Mrs. Conrad, who are also across from the School; have kept in touch with the permitted use of the property. They have shown us their letter to you, in which they outline and discuss the situation. We are in complete agreement with their letter.

Also, a question: why did the Sea School advertise in the local paper Evening Lectures before applying for a permit?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Doris & Patricia Thurber

401 Lagoon Drive, Sanibel Island, FL 33957