

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Greg Holmes, Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta, Keri Hendry-Weeg and Bill Veach.

Excused: Tree Andre

Staff: Rae Blake

Council Liaison: Anita Cereceda

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 13, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Holmes moved to approve the minutes; second by Ms. Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. MRTF Recommendations to Council (All)

Ms. Weeg reported that Mr. Torgerson will not pursue the coastal protection system plan.

B. Vehicles on the Beach (All)

Chair Veach developed best practices for vehicles on the beach. Discussion was held regarding the lack of a policy for all vehicles. Chair Veach suggested recommending to Council that the Town create a policy. Mr. Lubig felt that the Town should follow DEP rules like the vendors.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to have Chair Veach present the best practices to Council; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held concerning exceptions to policy, such as using the beach as a road to save time during construction.

C. Rain Gardens (Weeg) - no report.

D. Adopt a Beach (Andre) - no report.

E. Beachscape and Dune Plantings (Veach)

Sea oats were planted. Chair Veach questioned whether they wanted to deal with DEP permitting now or wait until fall to plant the next installment. He noted that the Charlotte Harbor application for reimbursement questioned whether the project would be there in three years. Consensus was reached to wait until fall to plant. Homeowners interested in working with the Town to install plants can work directly with Ms. Blake to obtain a DEP permit. Ms. Weeg will write an article for the newspaper. Ms. Cereceda noted that MRTF received permission from Council for their last planting project and they should consider requesting permission for on-going projects to plant at any location that needed dune planting.

F. Community Outreach (Weeg)

The Mother Earth event received positive responses. Chair Veach noted that the musicians felt the sound could have been better and they suggested holding the event later in the day. Ms. Cereceda suggesting holding a multi-timed event concluding with an evening concert. Discussion was held concerning organizing next year's event. Ms. Cereceda suggested that MRTF send a thank you letter to everyone who helped make the event a success. Chair Veach noted he would check with the Mound House regarding the missing table. Ms. Cereceda suggesting inviting Sheena to participate in a MRTF meeting dedicated to organizing the event for next year. Chair Veach encouraged members to write down suggestions for next year.

G. FAQ for Shelling and Dogs on Fort Myers Beach (Spalletta and Holmes)

Chair Veach distributed the combined lists. Ms. Blake noted that increasing the fees for dogs off leash was being discussed. Ms. Cereceda will bring up fees with Council. Chair Veach would like to address people digging holes on the beach. Ms. Cereceda questioned whether the brochure could be more comprehensive. Chair Veach remarked that he would ask Chuck and the Beach Patrol to review the brochure.

H. Environmental Education (Weeg and Veach)

Chair Veach discussed the idea of a brochure with Museum Director Alison Giesen and she indicated an interest. He will provide a mock-up by July.

I. Branding of Nature and Ecotourism (Veach)

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Blake asked for input on lesson plans for the local schools. Chair Veach questioned whether an opportunity existed to make presentations to condominium homeowner associations. Ms. Blake will check with Mr. Baker, Public Works Director. Ms. Spalletta suggested that Ms. Blake attend a monthly Chamber of Commerce meeting to address condo owners.

Ms. Weeg suggested that MRTF request a joint meeting with Council.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to not meet in June; second by Ms. Spalletta.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Veach questioned filling the vacancies in MRTF and asking Christine Denegre to officially resign.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Delete MRTF recommendations and beachscape.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Lubig.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Adopted _____ with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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