

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Keri Hendry Weeg, Greg Holmes, Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Excused: Eldon Ridener

Council Liaison: Anita Cereceda

Staff: Rae Blake

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 14, 2016

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Rain Gardens (Weeg)

Tyler Wainwright from Tetra Tech provided an overview of the Town's portion of the stormwater project. He indicated that all stormwater discharged into the back bay. By the end of the project, 47 underground sedimentation boxes will be installed. He noted that the boxes will not treat soluble nutrients. Discussion was held regarding best practices, rain gardens and rain barrels, water quality, water quantity, catch basins and grass swales.

Ms. Cereceda suggested writing monthly articles promoting how residents could be better stewards of the Island. Topics might include rain gardens/barrels, fertilizer regulations, xeriscaping ideas and best practices. Ms. Weeg agreed to write the first article.

B. Introduction of New Member Eldon Ridener - on hold.

C. Committee Reorganization

MOTION: Mr. Lubig moved to nominate Bill Veach as Chair; second by Ms. Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to nominate Keri Weeg as Vice Chair; second by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

D. MRTF Mission Statement

Ms. Cereceda reviewed the history of MRTF. Chair Veach described past efforts to get the simplest things accomplished. Discussion was held regarding the new brochure and why it wasn't being used. Ms. Cereceda suggested meeting with Interim Town Manager Steele.

Discussion was held concerning the responsibilities of MRTF and being stewards of the marine resource. Ms. Cereceda used Monofilament Madness as an example of a focused effort. Chair Veach felt that education and effective communication were important. Ms. Cereceda brought up the idea of hosting a weekend class to teach visitors about the environment, similar to the Leadership Council by CRAB.

Ms. Blake suggested that they come up with specific ideas to present to Council. Ms. Cereceda commented that they had to have a path forward. Adopt a Beach and beach plantings were two projects identified. Chair Veach noted that MRTF could put a booth up at Monofilament Madness for education outreach.

Ms. Weeg offered to contact Gulf Coast University regarding holding a weekend class. Discussion was held regarding local resources, sponsorships, donations, general curricula and locations to hold the class.

Alison Giesen, Museum Director, was handling TDC funding for the interpretive signs. Chair Veach will attend the next Council meeting to present objectives. Ms. Blake and Ms. Cereceda will meet with Interim Town Manager Steele regarding vehicles on the beach.

E. Reorganization of Current Items to Work on - see above.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Spalletta clarified what was prohibited in the critical habitat area. She stated that people were making bonfires on the beach. Ms. Blake indicated that the fire department should be called. Ms. Spalletta stated that portions of dunes and sea oats between Flamingo and Sterling had been destroyed in the past and she felt they should be proactive with new construction in the area. Ms. Blake noted that proper permitting would have to be obtained before any plowing was done. Ms. Cereceda suggested that Ms. Spalletta file a complaint with code enforcement. Chair Veach suggested taking before and after pictures to document damage. Ms. Spalletta reported that there were 92 turtle nests and approximately 20 were washed out.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING - December 14, 2016

Consensus was reached to skip November.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Spalletta

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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