

**FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING CENTER ADVISORY BOARD JOINT WORKSHOP
JANUARY 17, 2002
Town Hall - Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop of the Council/CELCAB was opened by Mayor Daniel Hughes on Thursday, January 17, 2002, at 5:35 p.m..

Council Members and CELCAB members present at the meeting: Mayor Daniel Hughes, Vice Mayor Terry Cain, Council member Bill Van Duzer, Council member Howard Rynearson, Council member Bill Thomas, Roxie Smith, Robin Curley, Bill Grace, Ceel Spuhler, Robert Rigaux, Penny Brown, Helen Caldwell, Elizabeth Jordan, Terry Cain, Fran Myers and Director Rebecca Harris

Excused absence from meeting: Irvin Winsboro

Staff present at meeting: Town Manager Marsha Segal-George and Town Attorney Dick Roosa.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

All assembled and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Penny Brown gave the invocation.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON WORKSHOP ITEMS

None.

IV. OVERVIEW OF WORK PLAN AND PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY COMPONENT - CORBETT TORRENCE AND THERESA SCHOBER, FGCU

Corbett Torrence came forward and expressed to the members of CELCAB that he had to resign for legal reasons concerning conflict of interest. He announced that on January 26th a general orientation for the project will be provided for the residents of Fort Myers Beach. February 1, Friday at 3:00 p.m. will be the ground breaking for archeology at the Mound House.

Corbett Torrence presented a slide presentation and explained some of the history. He gave descriptions of the different types of mounds and explained the various layers within. The building of mounds is not an accidental accumulation of garbage and is intentional. He showed the distribution of some of the major sites. The Mound House falls into the middle category of sites. The first objective will be to map the site, figure out how tall it is and how much volume is expressed in the site and know exactly its distribution. He indicated to accomplish this they have a \$6,000.00 survey instrument, which is of the highest quality. He discussed the two dimensional maps and indicated that they are used to plot the location of all the excavation units, artifacts that are found and any other type of distribution. They are currently working with the University of Florida to get a ground penetrating radar to look for disturbances or unique

features in the Mound House property. They will also be using arial photographs.

He indicated that they will start their mapping on February 7 and by the 14th they will be initiating auger surveys to test anomalies that were seen through mapping and, hopefully, ground penetrating radar. A surface collection will be done to see what types of artifacts will be identifiable on the surface. This will start on the 14th and volunteers will be used. The objective of the auger and the test pit survey would be to identify different activity areas. The two initial surveys that will be largely completed by the 21st will be followed by a series of excavation of 1 X 1 units.

Archeology is about human behavior and you do not see human behavior in one object. Human behavior is seen in relationships between objectives. He discussed the types of archeological deposits that need to be found. These types of deposits are necessary in order to have the archeological site be NR eligible. He indicated that he felt they will encounter these items at the Estero Island site.

All of the labor will be done by volunteers. He and Theresa will be directing. This will bring in people from all walks of life. Yes, it is fun! Discovering something or finding something that has not been touched in 1000 years is a novelty. Although, it is fun it also requires a lot of attention. 10 to 12 volunteers will be on the site each day. They will be working on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He and Theresa may come in on other days to do a little bit of clean-up. Students will be coming out from FGCU. They will be picked up in a van on campus to minimize traffic through Connecticut Street. All materials that will be removed will be screened. He feels that this is a great community builder. Everyone is excited about this project.

All tools will be analyzed and all the artifacts will get a number for future reference. They will be looking at the bone. The ceramics will be analyzed and are great tools for archeology. A lab will be set-up underneath the carport. The lab will be run by volunteers who will wash and label artifacts. This will allow those who do not have the physical strength to excavate or screen to be involved in the project.

An equally important part of this project, which will be overseen by Rebecca Harris, is site visitation. He and Theresa will be managing the archeological side and the Mound House director will be overseeing the visitation to the site. One major tour a day has been scheduled for Thursday and Friday at 11:00 a.m. and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.. People will be able to be brought around the site in an organized fashion. On March 1 the elementary students will come out to see how archeology is done.

The desire as the Cultural Museum and Environmental Learning Center is to understand the long term relationships with this environment. The Mound House has a unique mix of both archeological and historical resources. The reason this project is being done is because research is knowledge. The knowledge gained from this project will be hopefully translated into exhibits that can be used for further knowledge, and to attract people to the Fort Myers Beach Cultural and Environmental Learning Center. He sees this project as a beginning and a new horizon. (Applause was given)

Fran Myers questioned the equipment they may or not get. Is this due to the budget? Corbett Torrence replied that there are a variety of factors. It is only the ground penetrating radar. Theresa indicated that the ground penetrating radar was not included in the initial budget. She feels that she has the gentleman convinced to do some preliminary work for free. When the larger grant is written they will compensate

the University for the equipment use.

Mayor Hughes asked how the site is secured during the excavation? Corbett Torrence replied that they put up a series of posts and caution ribbon. They cover the units with ½ inch plywood. The site is technically closed after sunset. He indicated that they will setup a decoy for vandalism.

Fran Myers asked if the pool will be involved? Corbett Torrence replied that they are not planning to go near the pool unless otherwise instructed.

Mayor Hughes asked for the estimated completion date? Corbett Torrence indicated that the mapping will start on February 7 and should be complete on March 23. This is assuming enough good days exist. It is possible to be done early, if the weather permits.

Town Manger Segal-George expressed that Florida Gulf Coast would like to put in a proposal to hold the Director position at the Mound House. She feels that this was very interesting. She asked Corbett Torrence to put together something in writing. He has prepared a concept paper. The Town would enter into an agreement with the University with regards to the Mound House.

Corbett Torrence expressed that they share a common desire for what they want to see to happen out at the Mound House. The first responsibility would be to fulfill the programs and activities that the Town would like to see out there. This would also include managing the maintenance of the site. He feels that they can bring Florida Gulf Coast Universities vast array of resources. He means primarily educators and students. They could have students in elementary education involved in a student elementary program. Students in archeology, history and ecology would be involved with working with local volunteers to create a docent pool who could run tours on the weekends. These students could incorporate into public services, internships and directed studies. The University has a large number of faculty who are interested in helping out and participating. The Mound House could become a hub of both regional education programs. More human power could be brought than a single individual. The idea is to energize this both locally and regionally. He would have put together a proposal, but to do this it must go through grants. This is a conceptual plan brought to the Council today. The more people involved and who get excited make it actually become less of a burden for a single person. He and Theresa would be responsible for monthly reports, attending CELCAB meetings, attending Town Council meetings and reporting to Town Manager Segal-George.

Fran Myers questioned who would be present at the house everyday? Corbett Torrence replied that this could be discussed. He does not see someone there everyday. Someone will be present on site to monitor the home. No one person can be onsite everyday and do everything else. They must delegate into a docent program. Docents need direction and need people to report to.

Town Manager Segal-George commented that there has been a continuing desire from CELCAB and the Council to get more programming at the Mound House with regards to lectures. An affiliation with the University will give an ability to try and get this programming there. Initially there seemed to be a lot of excitement. They are looking to the Council to see if there is a desire. If so, Corbett and Theresa can go back to Florida Gulf Coast and bring an actual proposal.

Ceel Spuhler questioned the docent program and how it would be handled?

Theresa responded that FGCU has built in a community service element into its bachelors degree program. Every student must put in 90 hours of community service before they can get their degree. They also need to do a senior year internship, if they are in environmental studies or anthropology. Some students work for various organizations and develop a research project within, and will spend an entire semester doing one set project. Some students may spend their internship taking the archeological information from this project and design various exhibits or another student may take the information and connect archeological information with the classroom.

Council member Van Duzer commented that the offer is extremely interesting. He asked after a period of a few years what will keep them motivated to continue on? Corbett replied that this is never ending. You could spend a lifetime doing archeologically at the Mound House alone. He does not see it tiring at all.

Mayor Hughes agrees that this offer is also appealing. When you are dealing with an entity vs. an individual some differences exist. He indicated that they need to be able to pick up the phone and have contact with someone, if an important situation arises. A property management issue exists. Corbett Torrence replied that the intent was to have two contact people, which would expand the capability. More resources exist. They could have one person named as the responsible party.

Corbett Torrence went on to comment that their goal will be to take a lot of direction from CELCAB and Town Council. Council/CELCAB would be the decision makers and he and Theresa will be the implementers.

Discussion was held regarding the important maintenance issues of the home. Corbett Torrence indicated that they would be willing to address these issues should they be given the opportunity to interview.

Mayor Hughes expressed that they could get a consensus today. He asked if anyone would object to this? Mayor Hughes would personally like them to go to the next step of submitting a formal proposal. No objections were heard from those present.

V. DISCUSSION OF DIRECTOR'S JOB DESCRIPTION

Town Manager Segal-George indicated that this information has been included in everyone's packet. She asked if there was any desire to change anything and is everyone happy with the way it has been advertised?

Fran Myers discussed the more manager style with good business background, and more skills than the masters degrees etc.. Bill Grace replied that he felt they needed a business person who could find the individuals to do the teaching, etc.. This has just been his personal experience. In the past the business type was more satisfactory than someone more associated with the educational aspect. When people come in and talk to them they can make these types of decisions. He would like to see more of a business background.

Mayor Hughes expressed that they are asking for a lot. You will not get a masters degree for this type of salary. The person who will apply will be right out of school and will not have the experience. If they have the experience they will not come to work for \$25,000 to \$35,000. He does not feel that this is very realistic.

Town Manager Segal-George mentioned that there is money budgeted for most

of the repairs for the Mound House. Historical rehabilitation will need to have grants. The Mound House has received every grant they have applied for. Many other resources exist. The University has the ability to meet many more of the requirements listed on the job description. If it is the will of everyone present they will accept resumes and the University proposal up until February 15. It will then close and everything submitted will go to CELCAB. CELCAB will decide how they want to make recommendations to the Council and the Council will receive it. She asked if everyone was OK with this? Mayor Hughes indicated that this was fine with him and no other objections were heard. The description will be left as is.

Mayor Hughes indicated that they will continue to run the ad as is. Corbett Torrence has already been directed to submit a proposal.

VI. UPDATE ON WORK TO DATE ON THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS; RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE WORK ON THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS

Town Manager indicated that Rebecca was trying to give an update and summary of what has happened and what needs to happen. The important issue this evening was to get a dialog between Council and CELCAB. She does not feel that they need to review each item from the 15 pages in depth.

Mayor Hughes appreciated the memos he has received. He has a greater understanding of what has been done and what needs to be done. He does not feel that they need an update on the work to date. He feels that they need to discuss where they are going from here.

Terry Cain started a list of priorities. They need a new roof at the Mound House. She would like to see a whole new roof on the entire building.

Bill Grace replied that they need to have the roof fixed. Water is coming in and is destroying things. The restoration decisions need to be made later.

Mayor Hughes questioned the leaking roof since 2000. If there is a hole in the roof fix it! He does not understand this discussion.

Terry Cain went back to review her priorities of the roof, leak in the great room and the dock. The trees need to be trimmed, because they will end up with another hole in the roof if a storm comes through.

Discussion was held regarding the dock. The grant money was received in the past by Town Manager Segal-George, but lost because they took too long. A lot of issues existed on the type of dock to be put in. Town Manager Segal-George indicated that they would need an environmental survey to determine if the pilings are any good. They will need to go back in and get the money. She will handle this.

Mayor Hughes asked about the paint situation? Town Manager Segal-George replied that the paint is done. Visually it looks good.

Council member Thomas has concerns with the electrical. Does it meet the current codes? This should be a high priority item. Penny Brown commented that this has been one of her main concerns. This is a frame house and one wire could cause it to go up.

Mayor Hughes asked where they were on the electrical? Director Harris replied that there has not been any studying on the electrical or plumbing. When the house was purchased a general house inspection was done. They would need to go out to bid

and get in proposals.

Town Manager Segal-George replied that the delay in some of these issues has been due to the restoration issues. She asked if there was direction from CELCAB to handle these issues? The response was no.

Mayor Hughes suggested at the next meeting of CELCAB they give the Council a list of everything they would like to do and prioritize it. Council will give the go ahead and get through these things.

Town Manager Segal-George and Rebecca will work these issue out. They will determine based on the capital budget how much work can be done. The urgent matters will be handled first.

Bill Grace feels the roof leak is the most important. The second issue is two large trees in front of the house. Two choices exist - 1. Prune them back severely and put in lightning protection or 2. Remove the trees entirely. He personally likes removing the trees entirely. There are some CELCAB board members who do not agree. One of these two things could happen. Roof drainage is another issue. The fire protection and alarm system should be accomplished as soon as possible and he indicated that this was told to them in November of 2000. They also need to evaluate the old gas system. Also, investigate the insurance on the house. He feels the house is in danger from the water, trees, electrical system and in possible danger from the old gas system.

Mayor Hughes brought up discussion on the trees. Two alternatives exist.

Penny Brown commented if the trees are pruned they will look horrible for several years. They will need to be drastically pruned. Once these trees are pruned they never look right again. She is in favor of removing them.

Director Harris added that when the arborist came out he is interested in trees, but he would not perform any type of pruning that would be in fact topping the tree. This would kill the tree. He stated that this tree could be a state example.

Council member Van Duzer suggests that CELCAB has their meeting and do it in a democratic way, figure out what needs to be done, put it on the floor, vote on it with the majority ruling and send it on. He cannot believe that the roof has been leaking. There should not be a problem doing these types of things.

Fran Myers commented that it sounds like maybe they have not been doing their job. They do have the democratic discussions. They did move forward with the issue of the trees. Most were in favor of trying to save the trees and this is why they have the estimate.

Roxie Smith expressed that they may have been operating under some misunderstanding. They have been trying to handle the issues in the proper sequence and the proper way to retain the historic integrity of the house.

Mayor Hughes announced that they need a consensus on the trees. Fran Myers replied that the consensus was to save the trees, if they could. Both Mayor Hughes and Council member Thomas feel that the trees should be saved, if possible. Mayor Hughes indicated that they need to get bids for pruning the trees and lightning protection is also needed.

Council member Van Duzer will get three roofers to go over to the Mound House and prepare estimates to fix the roof.

Fran Myers has concerns regarding restrooms while they are doing the archeological dig. Town Manager Segal-George will take care of this. Director Harris

commented that if they feel this is going to be a problem they can look into renting a portable restroom.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

This item was combined with Agenda Item VI.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Conger resident of Connecticut Street came forward. She expressed that this has been a really interesting and exciting meeting. She was surprised to hear Theresa and Corbett come forward with the efforts of directing the Mound House. She feels that this is a real exciting offer. They will bring a lot to the table. She notices a real sensitivity to the neighbors in the area. She feels that there has been a lack of clarity at the CELCAB meetings. She thanked everyone for the time put into this.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. No time was given. The next meeting for CELCAB will be held on February 11, 2002 at 4:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Miller
Transcribing Secretary