

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

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Greg Holmes, Steve Johnson, Louise Kowitch (4:45), Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Absent: Keri Hendry Weeg

Staff: Rae Burns

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 13, 2017

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Reestablishing Beach Cleanup Volunteer Group

1. Discussion with Joanne Shamp

Ms. Shamp discussed working with the beachfront property owners as stewards of the beach. She reviewed her history on the beach and her involvement with MRTF. She revealed that the 86% of the lineal footage between Bowditch Point and Sterling was owned by private property owners. She indicated that property owners were hesitant to plant because they were leery of the Town. She felt that Adopt a Beach and BASE were trying to be good stewards but they needed to be aware of their relationship with the beachfront property owners. She discussed raking, building dunes and depth. Ms. Shamp distributed and discussed a handout that illustrated why she opposed the federal beach renourishment project. She stated that they needed to be respectful of property owners and they could not accomplish good things without their cooperation. Ms. Shamp indicated that she would provide a breakdown of property ownership to Ms. Burns. Ms. Mapes suggested approaching the Board of Directors of beach side condominiums. Chair Veach discussed the lack of knowledge concerning the rules of the beach. Ms. Shamp suggested enlisting the entire Island in stewardship.

2. Trash and the Public Education Campaign

Chair Veach suggested expanding their training program to include private property discussion and the psychology of approaching people on the beach. Ms. Kowitch commented that if it was going to be launched effectively and aggressively, it must be done collaboratively. Ms. Mapes suggested contacting the Estero Island Taxpayer's Association (EITA) since they were seasonal residents. Chair Veach remarked that they could create a presentation to condo associations and he suggested concentrating on beach education. Members revealed their main issues of concern including a living beach, raking, dune issues, trash, ecosystem, estuary, sea grass, fish, turtles, birds, bay, marine life, shells, water, dogs and property ownership. Discussion was held concerning whether the Adopt a Beach program and educating property owners concerning dunes should be tackled separately. Ms. Kowitch suggested creating a synthesis or toolkit of ideas. Chair Veach volunteered to create a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Burns suggested collecting all the information for discussion and move forward with what goes where.

B. Beach Sign Placement Discussion

Ms. Burns indicated that Ms. Giesen will probably have the signs next month.

C. Trash on the Beach

1. Reusable Bags

Mr. Veach distributed reusable bags with a conservation message from the Coastal Keepers. He noted that the bags cost \$2.00 and sponsors paid \$1,000.00 to advertise. He indicated that Coastal Keepers will speak to MRTF in the near future.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to allow representatives from Coastal Keepers from Sanibel to address MRTF at their next meeting; second by ?

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Recognition of "trash minimalist" business

Not addressed.

D. Shrimp Parade Float

Chair Veach will contact Mr. Lubig regarding the use of his trailer.

E. Dune Plantings

Chair Veach will meet with Ms. Burns later in the week regarding dune plantings. Discussion was held regarding renourishing the Newton Park area.

F. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"

Ms. Spalletta nominated the Community Foundation for picking up trash after New Year's Eve.

MOTION: Ms. Spalletta moved that the Community Foundation be the recipient of the Murphie Award for cleaning up after the New Year's Eve Celebration on the beach; second by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Mapes questioned lobbying. Ms. Burns indicated that Town Attorney Peterson stated that committees were not allowed to directly interact with the lobbyist. Any request had to go through Ms. Burns to forward to the Town Attorney. Ms. Mapes questioned whether she could write a letter to the editor regarding legislative issues on behalf of MRTF. Ms. Burns stated that the content of the letter had to be voted on and approved by MRTF.

Mr. Johnson requested clarification on the trash minimalist program. Chair Veach commented that it centered on being green. Mr. Johnson will research the issue.

Ms. Burns announced that next month was the official start of bird nesting season. She indicated that Council was discussing the Mulholland Award.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Ms. Burns will check on availability for February 7 or 8, 2018.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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