

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

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Greg Holmes, Steve Johnson, Louise Kowitch, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Excused/Absent: Keri Hendry Weeg

Staff: Rae Burns

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 10, 2018

Mr. Johnson made the second to the motion regarding inviting Coastal Keepers.

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Trash on the Beach - Reusable bags and "trash minimalist" businesses

Sam Lucas, Conservation Coordinator for Coastal Keepers, introduced herself. She indicated that the Coastal Keepers looked at different materials for bags before settling on cloth. She described education programs affiliated with the Sanibel Sea School. Chair Veach questioned whether adults could participate in classes. Ms. Lucas answered affirmatively. She discussed the Rhodes Scholar program. She stated that Coastal Keepers was a non-profit group. They were discussing cleaning the mangroves and they were currently working on an event with Keep Lee County Beautiful to clean canals.

Ms. Mapes questioned where they distributed their bags. Ms. Lucas replied that they pass them out at Bailey's General Store in Sanibel. She indicated that they were discussing the design for new bags and whether to find another vendor. They were working on obtaining new sponsors. Chair Veach questioned whether sponsors received bags. Ms. Lucas replied that they did. Mr. Johnson questioned levels of sponsorship. Ms. Lucas noted that they had a \$500 and \$1,000 level. She stated that they hoped to place another bag order in June. She addressed storing the bags. She will research answers to various questions and email Ms. Burns. She will keep MRTF updated. Chair Veach questioned whether he could research the cost of bags. Ms. Burns commented that he could research numbers on a preliminary basis but they would ultimately go through the Town's bidding process. She suggested gauging sponsor interest. Ms. Mapes, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Holmes

and Ms. Kowitch will contact businesses. Chair Veach will research prices online. Mr. Johnson will contact the local Chamber of Commerce for feedback.

Mr. Johnson researched green business certification. He listed eight categories and noted that many Chambers of Commerce administered the program. He noted there was a score card for eligibility with several metrics. He questioned who would administer the program and he questioned expanding the program to include homeowners. He described possible categories and questioned including condo associations and rental homes. Ms. Burns indicated that the Town did not have landscaping requirements for single family homes.

Ms. Spalletta brought up creating a list of participants. Chair Veach suggested developing criteria for inns, retail shops, restaurants, generic homes and beachfront homes. Mr. Johnson questioned whether the Chamber would be interested in running the program for commercial entities and MRTF could work with residences. He will create categories for review at the next meeting. Ms. Kowitch suggested contacting Bonita Springs regarding details concerning their contest to reduce water usage and water quality issues.

B. Council Presentation - Beach Sign Placement, Beach Cleanup Volunteer Group and Dune Plantings

Chair Veach stated that Council agreed with MRTF's suggestions regarding the fertilizer Ordinance. He suggested that Ms. Mapes contact Council Member Butcher concerning the science behind fertilizer. Ms. Burns confirmed that Ms. Mapes could send information to Council Members directly. Ms. Burns will meet with the Attorney regarding a lobbyist. She stressed that they needed to provide details for all projects.

Council agreed with locations for beach access interpretive signs. Ms. Giesen should have mockups ready by the next MRTF meeting. Council approved looking into creating fluid beach access signs. Chair Veach described possible content for different times of the year or for certain events. He suggested making the signs easy to change out but difficult to steal. Ms. Burns brought up a locking hook mechanism to padlock the sign onto the post. Chair Veach noted that the sign could be made of aluminum or acrylic. Ms. Spalletta commented that cigarette butts were abundant at Newton Park and they could use a sign at that location.

Chair Veach stated that everyone was invited to his house on Saturday at 3:00 to paint the float for the Shrimp Parade. He will contact Mr. Lubig regarding a trailer.

Ms. Burns explained the dune preservation bond for condo associations. They were attempting to change their development order requirements regarding dune plantings and a dune walkover. The association did not want to incur the costs for constantly replacing dune plants. Chair Veach questioned whether they should invest in planting at Newton Park knowing that the plants may not survive. Ms. Burns noted that sea oats at a beach access needed to be transplanted. Chair Veach discussed putting gel on roots.

Council will discuss the Mulholland Awards in the future.

Ms. Burns revealed that IT located past presentations regarding the Adopt a Beach program and she will forward the files.

Chair Veach sent members a template for environmental training. He questioned whether it was worth developing and how deep did they want to go. He suggested holding a general class and seeing where it went. He brought up the idea of trained people riding along with beach patrols on busy days. Ms. Burns added that the Town Manager tasked MRTF with creating beach outreach and the Adopt a Beach program by April. She indicated that MRTF could meet outside of meetings to discuss the program. She will forward information to MRTF. Chair Veach will continue working on his PowerPoint presentation. Discussion was held regarding the length of the program.

Ms. Burns revealed that she just received water quality results from 13 outfalls and she will keep MRTF updated.

Ms. Burns will reorganize the agenda for the next meeting.

C. The Murphie

Mr. Johnson nominated Artis Chester for the Murphie Award for tending her sea oats. Ms. Spalletta stated that she took a picture of a woman named Deb from Minnesota who picked up spent tackle on the beach. Chair Veach noted that the Tuna Skin people picked up a lot of trash and they gave away t-shirts made out of recycled plastic water bottles. Consensus was reached to award Artis Chester with the Murphie with Deb from Minnesota as the alternate.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Mapes sent information to Ms. Burns concerning canal dredging. She described a process that sucked out canals, which the Keys were utilizing. She described aeration and oyster beds. She questioned whether the Town had dredging regulations. Ms. Burns replied that methods were not regulated. Chair Veach suggested experimenting with aeration in a canal. Ms. Mapes noted that one oyster filtered 50 gallons of water per day. She will create a document to explain the science behind fertilizer, flyer points for canal front property owners and an outline for a class regarding canal health. She emailed senators regarding a bill prohibiting plastic bags and she will continue to monitor the issue.

Ms. Spalletta attended the 21st Annual Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting in St. Augustine. She noted that loggerhead turtles were holding steady and green turtles were increasing. She stated that the Oyster Catchers needed 150 consecutive days in order to fledge their chicks. The sea turtle license plate funds were used for scholarships and research. Ms. Spalletta stated that Florida was still in the crosshairs for drilling off the coast. She described the Sanibel resolution.

Ms. Burns noted that the Town was updating their dock and shore Ordinance. She will forward the information to MRTF.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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