

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

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, July 11, 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, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Excused: Keri Hendry Weeg

Staff: Rae Burns

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 13, 2018

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beach Sign Discussion – Interpretive and Seasonal Signs

Discussion was held regarding the following signs: Living on Shifting Sands, Feeding the World, Caring for Ecosystems, Flocking to the Beach, The Ocean’s Olympians and Layers of Living Things.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to submit the changes as discussed on the interpretive signs; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Burns will forward the changes to Alison Giesen.

Chair Veach noted that Council approved the seasonal signs. Ms. Burns will clarify the bid process with Town Manager Hernstadt and order the signs.

B. Trash on the Beach – Reusable Bags

Ms. Burns reported that Robert Lange, Finance Director, stated that they had to set up a budget for MRTF. Mr. Lange noted that they would have to use purchase orders instead of checks when ordering bags. He indicated that he will have to check with the Town Manager before they accept funds or order bags. Ms. Burns stated that they would have to go through the bid process.

Mr. Johnson noted that the meeting at the Chamber went very well. Jackie Lyszak, Chamber of Commerce President, relayed that a business owner from Naples was so impressed with the Town's straw ban that he eliminated plastic straws at his business. She supported the reusable bag program and she will speak with the Chamber Board. Mr. Johnson reported that they were invited to the Chamber luncheon on August 9, 2018 at Charlie's Boathouse from 11:30 to 1:00. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Mapes will attend the luncheon and answer questions. Ms. Lyszak indicated that they could place an ad in the Chamber newsletter. Mr. Johnson will contact Ms. Lyszak regarding details for the ad. Mr. Johnson suggested using the first five slides regarding the program. Chair Veach discussed pricing, quotes, free samples and the quality of the bags. Ms. Spalletta will continue to investigate pricing.

C. Adopt a Beach Access – discussion tabled.

D. Murphie Award

Turtle notice sign painter, Jose, was the recipient of the Murphie Award.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Kowitch reported that she was asked to serve as the Education Coordinator by Friends of Lover's Key. They were breaking ground on a Welcome and Discovery Center. She commented that they were applying for a variety of grants to fund the education program. Ms. Kowitch suggested that it would be a good opportunity for MRTF to partner with them for education outreach and use the new center as a base for education purposes. She asked MRTF if they would agree to consider being a partner with the Friends of Lover's Key. She noted that she sent a PowerPoint presentation and a grant proposal to Ms. Burns and she requested that Ms. Burns share the information with MRTF. Ms. Mapes questioned whether they would have to obtain permission from the Town to partner with them. Ms. Kowitch replied that the grant required a letterhead agreement to be a formal partner. Ms. Burns will contact Town Clerk Mayher regarding partnering opportunities before proceeding.

Chair Veach noted that Council granted approval for MRTF to send Publix a letter regarding plastic bags. Discussion was held regarding the content of the letter. Chair Veach will edit the letter and forward it to Ms. Burns.

Ms. Spalletta indicated there were 57 turtle nests. She reported that false crawls have tripled and hatching was beginning.

Mr. Johnson stated that there were big holes on the beach that needed to be filled. Ms. Burns will contact B.A.S.E.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING – August 8, 2018

Chair Veach noted that he would not be able to attend the next meeting.

Ms. Burns indicated that MRTF may have to change their meeting time due to the Fire Department renting the Chamber for their monthly meetings on the same day. Chair Veach preferred that the Fire Department move their meeting date and time. Ms. Burns will contact Town Clerk Mayher.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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