

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Cultural and Environmental
Learning Center Advisory Board
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, May 23, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Hill, Cindy Richardson, Betty Simpson, Cheri Smith, Ceel Spuhler and Becky Werner.

Excused: Lorrie Wolf

Historical Advisor: Bill Grace

Town Staff: Director Alison Giesen

Council Liaison: Mayor Anita Cereceda

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 24, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Simpson moved to approve the minutes; second by Ms. Smith.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Catherine Wallace, resident, received positive comments regarding the water quality project. She suggested that the project be included in the newspaper before next October.

VI. BECKY WEBER (CRAB COMMITTEE MEMBER) – TOWN APP

Ms. Weber displayed the app on the screen and noted the embedded YouTube video will be replaced with a drone view of Fort Myers Beach. She described different features of the app including three live traffic views from Town cameras, status of ongoing construction projects, available parking, public restroom locations and Parks & Recreation facilities. Ms. Weber indicated that the app should be completed and available to the public within approximately two months.

Discussion was held regarding an upcoming change at the Mound House.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Giesen stated that the use change to the zoning of the Mound House will consist of two public hearings and letters will soon be sent to neighbors within 500 feet of the Mound House. The LPA will review the request before sending it to Council in August or September. She encouraged CELCAB to interact with the neighborhood by answering questions and providing information. Ms. Werner questioned whether a casual meeting with the neighborhood at the Mound House would be feasible. Director Giesen stated that she would not volunteer to host a meeting. Chair Hill noted that residents could review the recent joint session with Council on YouTube for information on the proposed change.

Mr. Grace described compromises made by the Town to establish the Mound House. He felt the change request was reasonable, but he noted that the neighborhood may react negatively if they did not understand the change. Ms. Spuhler stated that the tone and content of the letter would be crucial as to how it would be received. Director Giesen will review the letter and try to make changes if possible.

Director Giesen reported that scholarships were still available and camps were filling up. She will provide financials at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding Chair Hill drafting an informational letter to the editor prior to or after the neighborhood received the zoning letter and another letter before the public hearings.

VIII. APPROVE CELCAB BUDGET FOR FY20

Chair Hill questioned whether using funds for mini reefs would be appropriate. Ms. Werner suggested that they wait until the end of the year. Ms. Simpson reminded members that the Mound House was hosting a celebration on November 14, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Werner moved to direct the 2020 CELCAB budget of \$5,000.00 toward the November 14, 2019 celebration at the Mound House to commemorate the Register of Historical Places designation; second by Ms. Richardson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEWTON STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Director Giesen indicated that she updated the plan on May 16, 2019 and it would be reviewed every six months. Discussion was held concerning providing food concessions at Newton House or possibly partnering with Publix. Director Giesen discussed enhanced rental partnerships and how they worked within the primary core programming. Ms. Richardson questioned the status of break-ins. Director Giesen replied that now they were permitted to remove trespassers, security issues had improved. She described enhanced security measures.

X. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Spuhler questioned whether there was a specific protocol for the November 14, 2019 event. Director Giesen suggested that CELCAB create an invitation list and decide how they wanted to proceed with the program. She noted that the celebration would not include a fundraiser, but it could be a springboard for future fundraisers. Ms. Werner agreed that it was an opportunity for

education concerning the Mound House. Due to the number of Mound House memberships, Director Giesen suggested hosting a VIP event on November 14 followed by extended celebrations similar to the grand opening. She will email the grand opening invitation list to CELCAB members.

Ms. Werner recognized the Friends of the Mound House for their work. She noted there was currently \$10,000.00 in the endowment fund and their goal was \$30,000.00 for the year. She indicated the Friends were very close to reaching their fundraising goal of \$25,000.00.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Catherine Wallace clarified the hours of operation and the modification of uses.

XII. FUTURE MEETING DATE – July 25, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURN

Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Adopted July 25 2019 with/without changes. Motion by Betty Simpson
(DATE)

Vote: all Signature: Barbara Hill

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