

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

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Excused: Justin Paulauskis

Staff: Rae Burns

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10, 2019

Not available.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Fertilizer Ordinance Review

Technician Burns reported that the ordinance was with the Town Attorney. Council requested that MRTF determine which ordinance (DEP or the Town's) should be renewed or brought forward as a new ordinance. Ms. Mapes noted that the ordinances were similar but two parts of the DEP ordinance were better. She will provide a comparison report between the two ordinances. Ms. Mapes indicated that she could also make a case as to why a policy with stricter standards outside the DEP model would be feasible. She offered to research other municipalities with approved DEP legislation. Chair Veach noted their goal was to push for a year-round ban.

B. Reusable Bags

Chair Veach reported that the bags arrived and he distributed approximately 250. Ms. Feste noted that she distributed them at the library. Mr. Johnson suggested dropping a quantity to the library to supplement the single-use plastic bags. Chair Veach noted that he distributed bags to the Sea Gypsy and they will let him know whether the bags were returned per instructions on the bag. He stated that the printer had more bags and he discussed contacting neighborhoods, property rental agencies and hotels regarding distribution. Discussion was held regarding several distribution avenues.

C. Glyphosate Use on Fort Myers Beach

Technician Burns indicated that she was providing scientific data to Council for an upcoming glyphosate discussion.

D. MRTF Issued Certifications

1. Island Yard Certification

Ms. Feste reported that the Garden Club was interested in the idea and they requested that MRTF state their expectations of them. They were concerned regarding who would certify the yards. She emailed the extension services regarding whether they could offer support to MRTF. She posed questions from the Garden Club regarding the program. Mr. Johnson suggested reviewing the checklist to determine which area an expert was needed. Ms. Mapes remarked that they had to emphasize education and assistance. Discussion was held regarding how the Florida First Certification program differed from the Island Yard Certification, the checklist, the benefits of following the program, inviting a Master Gardner to teach inspectors (non MRTF members), educational opportunities, adding content to the website, marketing and the sign design.

Ms. Feste revealed that she would be out of town until next October.

2. Sea Turtle Lighting Certification

Mr. Johnson reported that he was in the process of collecting data and he would present his findings at their next meeting. Mr. Holmes discussed reoccurring compliance issues with condominiums. Technician Burns addressed the color, wattage and type of light bulbs required. She stated that her goal was to make sure that existing lights were turtle friendly and allowed turtles and people to coexist safely. She encouraged residents to email her for an appointment to inspect the lighting on their property.

3. Turf Grass Study

Chair Veach noted that Council approved their request. He stated that Utility Manager Chelsea O'Riley had many questions. Mr. Johnson will communicate with Manager O'Riley and reach out to Cultural Resources Director Alison Giesen regarding the Mound House landscape.

E. Good Citizen aka the "Murphie"

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to award Al Durrett with the Murphie; second by Ms. Mapes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Spalletta reported that there were no loggerhead nests yet.

Ms. Mapes indicated that she would attend the Council meeting tomorrow. She brought up cutting down trees in subdivisions and whether Council would change the ordinance. Technician Burns suggested addressing the topic at the June 20, 2019 Council meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Mapes moved to recommend that the 14-382c clause be removed from the tree ordinance that provided for the removal of three native trees per calendar year without a permit in neighborhoods on Fort Myers Beach; second by Chair Veach.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Veach described how he mounted one of the new signs with mending strips. Ms. Feste described the many signs at her beach access. Mr. Johnson described drilling holes and using tamper proof screws.

Mr. Johnson described raking contractors driving three miles on the beach because they did not want to move the dumpsters. Technician Burns stated that the contractors in question were no longer working for the Town.

Mr. Johnson will mount the signs with the tamper proof screws and see how they work.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Chair Veach and Ms. Feste will not attend the June meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson moved to skip the July meeting; second by Ms. Feste.

VOTE: Motion passed; 4-1 with Ms. Mapes dissenting.

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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