

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

Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Greg Fossum, Renee Heil, Steve Johnson, Rose Larkin, Jennifer Rusk, Mary Rose Spalletta.

Excused: Sarah De Beer.

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz.

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

**IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Add dune report by Manager Chustz to Current Items.

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Spalletta moved to approve the amended agenda; second by MRTF Member Fossum.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 14, 2020**

Clarifications: MRFT Member Rusk added that Mr. Krohn stated that he sold the turtles because he liked them.

MRTF Member Larkin described a rope she purchased a year ago that was made of polypropylene instead of nylon. (She clarified that the rope was part of the mini-reef system she purchased.)

**MOTION:** MRFT Member Spalletta moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by Chair Johnson

**VOTE:** Motion approved unanimously.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment**

**VII. CURRENT ITEMS**

A. Eta Dune Damage Report

Manager Chustz displayed before and after photos of the dunes and described the damage. He noted that the FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) published a document regarding items under their jurisdiction. He indicated that he would be happy to answer questions. MRTF Member Rusk questioned why sand from dredging was redistributed between the Lani Kai and Coconut. Manager Chustz replied that the area was designated critically eroded.

#### B. Street Lighting Selection Advisory Committee Nomination

MRTF Member Spalletta nominated Chair Johnson. MRTF Members unanimously agreed. MRTF Member Rusk noted that if the clock in Times Square was replaced with a new clock, it had to be turtle compliant. MRTF Member Spalletta added that Turtle Time would provide a new film for the clock if it were moved. Liaison Veach noted there were no replies to their request for lighting quotes, so the SAC will meet to modify the request.

#### C. Fertilizer Education

Manager Chustz reported that code enforcement distributed placards to landscape companies. They collected contact information from several companies, which would be useful for continuing education efforts. Chair Johnson discussed a commercial applicator license in the code. Manager Chustz indicated it was a state certification and regulated by the state. Chair Johnson noted that their local ordinance was stronger than the state's ordinance. MRTF Member Rusk suggested the Town request a copy of the commercial applicator license from landscape companies. Manager Chustz will follow up. MRTF Member Heil noted they could contact the Florida division of the National Association of Landscape Companies for a list of members. Liaison Veach suggested that Coordinator Dexter could provide fertilizer education to condominium associations.

#### D. Times Square Foliage Recommendations

Liaison Veach stated that Council preferred palm trees for easy maintenance. MRTF Member Spalletta recommended that they refer to the Fort Myers Beach publication. Different types of palm trees were discussed. Consensus was reached to recommend planting Sabal palms.

#### E. FMB Dune Management

Manager Chustz requested feedback regarding the pros and cons of the program. Discussion was held regarding criteria, maintaining the dune in perpetuity, managed beach zones, renourishment, 2009 Dune Management Plan, current renourishment plan, building dunes at the Wyndham, qualifying sand for renourishment and getting property owners to sign up for the program without free sand. Chair Johnson stated that he would like to review the plan one more time in more detail.

#### F. Exotic Vegetation Management

MRTF Member Larkin offered to contact the Lee County Extension Service for assistance. Discussion was held regarding exotic plants, community awareness education, utilizing the media to produce a positive narrative and creating an inventory.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to advise Town Council to remove exotic vegetation in the EC zone and appropriate funds to do so; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to provide MRTF Member Larkin the authority to approach Lee County Extension Services to assemble the master gardeners to the island to do an inventory of Category 1 invasive species on the FLPPC list; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

#### G. Good Citizen Award aka the “Murphie”

MRTF Member Rusk nominated employees of Diversified for helping to rescue a vulture. MRTF Member Spalletta described a fisherman who fished from the shore and released the fish while it was still in the water. Chair Johnson noted they had two nominees in the bank.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson nominated the employees of Diversified; second by MRTF Member Rusk.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

### VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

MRTF Member Fossum questioned the status of the manatee speed zone in the Fish Tale Marina area. Manager Chustz replied that conversations were ongoing. Discussion was held concerning signage.

MRTF Member Rusk questioned why FWC (Florida Wildlife Conservation) was not addressing red tide. MRTF Member Fossum replied that the FWC stated there was no red tide. MRTF Member Rusk noted that veterinarians agreed that something was going on. MRTF Member Fossum noted that tests did not detect red tide.

MRTF Member Larkin reported that the mini-reef company was still using the propylene material. MRTF Member Spalletta reported that there were 132 nests and over 7,200 live hatchlings were released in the gulf. She thanked the Town of Fort Myers Beach for allowing Turtle Time members on the beach during April. She revealed that 27 nests were drowned and 7 were completely washed out due to earlier storms. Only 9 nests were disoriented due to lighting. She thanked Manager Chustz for his work improving lighting compliance. She also thanked businesses and residents for cooperating. She suggested that lights in potential message boards in Times Square be turtle friendly.

Liaison Veach suggested that MRTF recommend putting badges on grates for the new stormwater system. He stated he was meeting with the owner of the Whale regarding adding plants to the right of way in front of the restaurant.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to recommend putting badges on the stormwater sewers; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Perry stated that he would be bringing in sand to the north of the Outrigger. He reiterated that they would have to come up with a plan similar to the plan north of the pier. He felt that it should be implemented Island-wide.

**X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING – remove Times Square foliage**

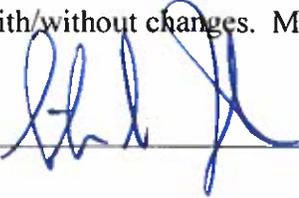
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting; second by MRTF Member Fossum.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Adopted 12-9-20 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: 

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