

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

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Sarah De Beer, Greg Fossum, Steve Johnson, Rose Larkin, Jennifer Rusk, Mary Rose Spalletta.

Excused: Renee Heil

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz.

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Add Invasive Vegetation Inventory to Current Items.

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to approve the agenda; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18, 2020

FEPPL list should be the FLEPPC (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council) list.

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

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Invasive Vegetation Inventory

MRTF Member Larkin noted that she was scheduled to take the Master Gardner test on December 10, 2020, and she would be the project leader for Fort Myers Beach. She indicated they had to create a checklist of exotic plants. Manager Chustz mentioned Australian Pine, Carrotwood, Scaevola, Air Potato, Brazilian Pepper and Lead Trees.

He suggested adding the size of the tree. MRTF Member Larkin stated that their project would have a sign-up sheet for volunteers and she felt that many would participate. MRTF Member Fossum noted that the two pine trees in his neighborhood had Osprey nests in them. It was determined the trees were probably Norfolk Pines rather than Australian Pines.

B. Fertilizer Education

Manager Chustz indicated that he was waiting to hear back regarding whether condo maintenance workers were required to obtain an applicator license. He reported that they started handing out the information card to condo managers.

C. FMB Dune Management

Chair Johnson noted that Joanne Shamp's policy and the management plan were similar. He questioned whether they were interested in codifying the policy. MRTF Member Spalletta wondered how many zones were on the beach. Manager Chustz explained that managed beach zones were where dunes were created and maintained. Chair Johnson questioned whether they would include a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for property owners with managed beach zones. Manager Chustz replied affirmatively and noted a copy was in the file.

Chair Johnson questioned whether the property owner hired and paid for the contractor. Manager Chustz replied that the Town hired a contractor for a renourishment project and they mapped out the state of each property's dunes. He stated that property owners could use LEEPA (Lee County Property Appraiser website) to determine where the managed beach zone would be located. MRTF Member Spalletta questioned whether the Town paid for the plants. Chair Johnson replied that it was up to the homeowner now but they could suggest that the Town help offset costs in the future.

Discussion was held concerning raking. Chair Johnson noted that Turtle Time shared feedback with them and Manager Chustz commented that he would change the language to the Marine Permit Holder.

Manager Chustz stated that he would draft an ordinance and bring it back to MRTF.

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to codify the Fort Myers Beach Dune Management Plan and extend it to the entire Island; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

MRTF Member Fossum suggested that they simplify the plan so people could understand it. Manager Chustz agreed that it could be a one or two-page document. Chair Johnson explained that the ordinance would allow the dunes to be maintained to control the growth.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"

Manager Chustz stated that volunteers from Arthrex helped him clean up the beach in the EC zone last Friday.

MOTION: Chair Johnson nominated the volunteers of Arthrex; second by MRTF Member

Spalletta.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the schedule for articles in 2021. MRTF Member Larkin will write a piece for January.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Johnson provided an update on items from previous agendas.
No items from other members.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Someone spoke but the microphone did not pick up the conversation.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING – January

Remove Fertilizer Education. Add lighting, sunscreen, holes on the beach and dark skies

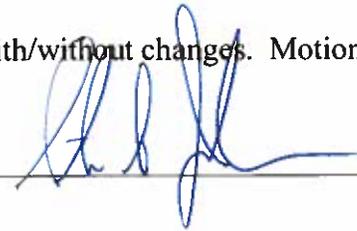
XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Adopted 2-10-21 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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