

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

Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

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

Excused/Absent: Renee Jeffreys Heil

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz

Project Manager Chustz revealed that Sarah De Beer would no longer be participating in MRTF.

**IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Project Manager Chustz noted that they had to select a member to join the Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) for the beach renourishment Request for Quote (RFQ).

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 10, 2021**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**VII. CURRENT ITEMS**

**A. MRTF Educational Outreach**

MRTF Member Rusk noted that feedback from the community was positive and locations included Santini Plaza, the Mound House, Newton House, Bay Oaks, Fort Myers Beach Public Library, the Sheriff's Outreach Center and Diamond Head. She would also

like to see them in Times Square, Lynn Hall Park, Bowditch, beach accesses, businesses, resorts, etc. MRTF Member Rusk requested a link on the Town's website for further information. She listed groups who were interested in participating and described logistics of the program. MRTF Member Fossum questioned whether the Town Council had to approve the speakers. MRTF Member Rusk replied that she would stick with representatives from local organizations. Chair Johnson suggested emailing Town Council the scope of the program with a list of speakers as an FYI. He noted that Council would inform them if anything were objectionable. Project Manager Chustz agreed.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved that MRTF move forward with the educational outreach program and inform Town Council at the March 15, 2021 meeting; second by MRTF Member Larkin.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Fertilizer Certification & Training**

Chair Johnson brought up education and enforcement. Project Manager Chustz stated that they sent a newsletter and the recent bulletin to landscaping companies and condos. He listed topics to address throughout the year.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved that MRTF allow the new PIO to use her platform to educate residents and visitors concerning the fertilizer ordinance and revisit the topic after the rainy season if issues with noncompliance were discovered; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Ocean Friendly Sunscreen**

On hold.

**D. Beach Renourishment RFQ**

Project Manager Chustz described the expanded scope for beach renourishment, the RFQ and the SAC.

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Rusk moved to nominate MRTF Member Fossum to the SAC; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**E. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"**

Project Manager Chustz stated that a group of 50-100 students from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) collected trash on the beach. Chair Johnson described a turtle rescue by a family from Maine. MRTF Member Spalletta reminded members of the catch and release program.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to nominate the Campbell family from Maine; second by

MRTF Member Spalletta.  
**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

MRTF Member Rusk brought up adding the link for the educational outreach program on the website at the next Town Council meeting.

MRTF Member Fossum questioned whether the Town applied for a grant from the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to remove derelict vessels. Project Manager Chustz replied that he would contact the Harbormaster and Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley. MRTF Member Fossum will forward the grant announcement to Director O'Riley.

Chair Johnson noted that a boat was recently pulled up by Fish Tale Marina. Project Manager Chustz indicated that a Manatee sign was installed. Chair Johnson questioned whether anyone was interested in being a representative for dark skies. He questioned whether they were interested in inviting a guest from Bradenton to discuss the issue. MRTF Member Rusk endorsed this idea.

MRTF Member Spalletta questioned the dune destruction in front of the Wyndham. She stated that she would take pictures and send to code enforcement and Project Manager Chustz.

MRTF Member Larkin stated that approximately 100 homes were identified with invasive plants and the group was walking section 2 next. She noted the form worked out well. She indicated the top invasive species were umbrella trees, Brazilian peppers, Fagus ferns and carrotwood trees. She commented that the Master Gardeners might submit an article to the News-Press regarding the project.

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

**X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to table fertilization certification & training, add dark skies/Town lighting and dune management; second by MRTF Member Fossum.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

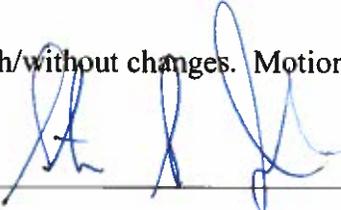
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Adopted 5-19-21 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

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

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