

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

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Greg Fossum (arrived late), Robert Howell (arrived late), Steve Johnson, Rose Larkin, Jennifer Rusk and Mary Rose Spalletta.

Excused: Wendy DeGaetano

Staff: Environmental Services Project Manager Chadd Chustz

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – February 9, 2022**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**VII. CURRENT ITEMS**

**A. FWC Presentation Review**

Chair Johnson questioned the mobility potential of Imazapyr, which would be used to control sand spurs and crow's feet. Project Manager Chustz noted that vinegar and

saltwater were not approved as herbicides in Florida. Chair Johnson read information from the Nature Conservancy regarding Imazapyr properties. Project Manager Chustz mentioned rotary mowing to control crow's feet and a blow torch on vegetation.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to send an email to Becky Schneider asking her to review why burning with propane to control the weeds was not an option and to address toxicity levels for the remaining flora and fauna in the area; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

#### B. MRTF Budget

Chair Johnson reviewed the budget allocation from the last meeting as \$5,000.00 for reusable bags, \$3,000.00 for a town map and \$2,000.00 for the pop-ups. MRTF Member Larkin reported that she received an estimate of \$150.00 for printing the fertilizer card, but it was not laminated. Chair Johnson estimated that adding lamination would cost \$250.00. MRTF Member Rusk reported that she spoke to Cultural Parks & Recreation Director Alison Giesen regarding collaborating with the map pamphlet. She contacted a graphic designer who thought she could create a pamphlet in an hour or two. MRTF Member Rusk questioned whether they needed to purchase more bags due to some lack of interest. Liaison Veach noted that reusable water bottles were another option. Discussion was held regarding bags versus bottles. MRTF Member Rusk received an estimate of \$765.00 for a new tent with a logo. She reported that she needed more money for the pop-ups since the town will now charge for printing brochures.

Chair Johnson suggested changing the allocation to \$4,000.00 for bags/bottles/items and \$3,000.00 for outreach items and pop-ups. He brought up testing whether offering narrow-band LED rechargeable flashlights would be successful. MRTF Member Spalletta questioned whether offering the lights would encourage people to go out on the beach at night. Project Manager Chustz replied that there were already many people with flashlights at night.

MRTF Member Rusk indicated that she could edit brochures to save printing costs.

Liaison Veach suggested adding more details to the budget.

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Rusk moved to allocate \$4,000.00 to the pop-up outreach, \$3,000.00 for graphics and printing and \$3,000.00 for the main event; second by Chair Johnson.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

MRTF Member Rusk offered to work on the map and research the flashlights.

#### C. Dark Skies

MRTF Member Spalletta stated she was on hold until the town decided on the lighting plan. Town Manager Hernstadt indicated that the decision was up to Town Council. He described the dual lighting system planned for Times Square.

Discussion was held regarding contents for a motion concerning the lighting ordinance.

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Rusk moved to allow Chair Johnson to draft two motions: one regarding up lights and the second for color, uniformity and temperature; second by MRTF Member Howell.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

D. Shrimp Fest

Chair Johnson reported that they did not have a trailer to haul the boat. He invited members to his house on Friday to decorate another trailer.

E. Exotic Vegetation

MRTF Member Larkin indicated that the Google mapping was almost complete. She noted that the website content was changed and a link to a gardening center needed to be removed.

G. Sea Turtle Notice

Program Manager Chustz distributed a notice to be included in the water bill. MRTF Member Rusk suggested discussing it next month. Chair Johnson questioned whether they could include a PDF with electronic notices. Project Manager Chustz will check.

H. Good Citizen Award, aka the "Murphie"

MRTF Members Rusk, Spalletta and Howell described potential nominees.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to award the Murphie to the Pink Shell; second by MRTF Member Rusk.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. MEMBERS' ITEMS AND REPORTS**

MRTF Member Howell requested that alternatives to the propeller guard be added to the next agenda.

MRTF Member Spalletta noted that code had been doing a good job enforcing dogs on leashes.

MRTF Member Rusk requested that turtle season be added to the next agenda.

MRTF Member Larkin congratulated MRTF Member Rusk for her first anniversary with the pop-up events.

No items from other members.

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

**X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

See VIII. for additions.

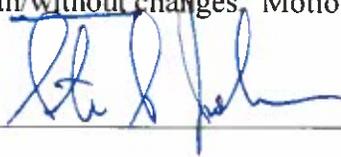
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Adopted April 13, 2022 with/without changes, Motion by Larkin / <sup>2nd</sup> Howell  
(DATE)

Vote: 5-0 Signature: 

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