

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

Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

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

Staff: Environmental Services Project Manager Chadd Chustz

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

**IV. Approve The Agenda**

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Larkin moved to add vegetation; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2022**

**MOTION:** MRTF Member DeGaetano moved to approve the minutes; second by MRTF Member Fossum.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Public Comment – no public comment.**

**VII. Current Items**

**A. Irrigation Regulations**

Project Manager Chustz stated that Fort Myers Beach had not adopted the latest model ordinance for year-round irrigation regulations and declaration for water shortages.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to recommend that Town Council review the state model ordinance for irrigation and declaration of water shortages; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

## B. Sea Turtle Conservation

Chair Johnson discussed his PowerPoint presentation. Topics included Sea Turtle Conservation Challenges, Typical Night on the Beach, Pink Shell Photos and Window Tint Comparisons. Discussion was held regarding tinting windows with film and light intensity. The presentation concluded with Sea Turtle Lighting Enforcement and education. MRTF Member Rusk described sea turtle lighting enforcement at Longboat Key using email and their website. Project Manager Chustz felt that the process he used was very similar. Discussion was held concerning removing the one-year moratorium.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to amend the current recommendation to Town Council by replacing the language allowing a one-year moratorium on the current 15% tint and requiring compliance with the existing ordinance and replacing the portion that temporarily allows the installation of 45% tint by adding the language that hardships could be managed through the normal variance process; second by MRTF Member Larkin.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

## C. MRTF Pamphlet

MRTF Member Rusk noted that the content did not change. She discussed having a photo contest for pictures to include in the pamphlet and described the information she gave to Panther Printing. Discussion was held regarding the printer and consensus was reached to pay Panther Printing \$250.00 for a mock-up.

## D. MRTF Budget

Chair Johnson questioned the budget process and noted that some seasonal signs needed replacing. MRTF Member Rusk replied that budget requests go through Project Manager Chustz. She stated that the tent was already falling apart and MRTF Member Howell volunteered to call the company. MRTF Member Rusk received \$2,275.00 from the Kiwanis Club and she addressed prices for a new tent and wrap canopy. She described a post card with seeds from Florida State University and MRTF Member DeGaetano thought it was a good idea. MRTF Member Rusk stated that Ding Darling would no longer provide coloring and activity books. Liaison Veach suggested obtaining PDFs of the material and printing the books in-house.

MRTF Member Rusk received approval to look into activity books and MRTF Member Howell will assist. She stated she would print out PDFs from the Fish & Wildlife Conservation (FWC) and request a quote from Panther Printing.

## E. Vegetation

MRTF Member Larkin reviewed the ordinance and noted that only one of MRTF's recommendations was included. She addressed the recommendations that were not in the ordinance. Chair Johnson indicated that the process of removing trees would include requiring a permit and town staff would inspect the trees to determine compliance. He did not have an issue with the content of the tree ordinance. Discussion was held regarding protecting coconut palms, which were considered invasive.

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Larkin moved to remove coconut palms from the protected tree list; second by MRTF Member Rusk.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

MRTF Member Larkin described an email sent to MRTF Members with Google Earth Pro concerning invasive plants.

F. Good Citizen Award, aka the "Murphie"

MRTF Member Rusk commented that the Coast Guard helped clean up the beach. MRTF Member DeGaetano described a Cormorant named Buddy that needed help and Heather from Beach Patrol transported him to CROW. After a short discussion, MRTF Member DeGaetano withdrew her nominee.

Chair Johnson suggested the Sea Turtle Conservancy for their continued work on the beach. Consensus was reached to award the Sea Turtle Conservancy.

**VIII. Members' Items and Reports**

MRTF Member Spalletta noted there were six turtle nests and reminded people to follow the rules. Chair Johnson recognized Liaison Veach for pointing out that the town should not expand the number of lights on the side streets.

MRTF Member Rusk read the email she sent on April 14, 2022, to Project Manager Chustz regarding the pamphlet. She discussed effective communications.

No items from other members.

**IX. Public Comment – no public comment.**

**X. Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Remove irrigation regulations and sea turtle conservation. Add water sports and parasails.

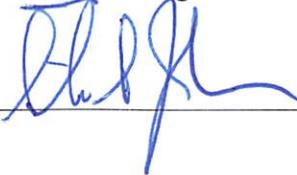
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Adopted June 8, 2022 with/without changes. Motion by Mary Rose Spalletta  
(DATE)

Vote: 7-0 Signature: 

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