

MINUTES
Town of Fort Myers Beach
Cultural and Environmental Learning
Center Advisory Board "CELCAB"
Mound House - 451 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Vice Chair Werner.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Kerrie Henderson, Barbara Hill (arrived late), Patrick McKeown (via phone), Betty Simpson, Cherie Smith and Becky Werner.

Excused: Ellen Vaughan

Town Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt (arrived late)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 16, 2023

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved to approve the minutes; second by CELCAB Member Werner.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson nominated Barbara Hill as Chair; second by CELCAB Member Henderson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson nominated Cherie Smith as Vice Chair; second by CELCAB Member Werner.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Hauge reported that the Island Hopper was a great event and thanked the Friends for sponsoring it. Although the rain forced people inside, they still had a good time. CELCAB Member Werner questioned whether there was a limit on the number of people on the property

grounds. Director Hauge will check. CELCAB Member Werner stated that Suncoast Beverages donated beer, soft drinks and wine.

Vice Chair Smith mentioned that she was told she was not allowed to make centerpieces for weddings since she was not on staff. Director Hauge did not see an issue with her volunteering, but he will check.

Discussion was held regarding the prohibition of amplified music at the Mound House due to the neighbor's objections. Director Hauge will forward the ordinance to members. After a conversation regarding weddings, the fee schedule will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Director Hauge reported that he would meet with Environmental Projects Manager Chadd Chustz regarding installing native plants, signage and a walkway at Newton Park. He added that the park was still under state control until next May. CELCAB Member Henderson indicated that her condo complex would donate money for plants at Newton. Director Hauge noted that Tourist Development Council (TDC) funds were available to replace vegetation. He indicated that the Town received \$40,000.00 for temporary restroom trailers with A/C and limited parking will be available.

An agreement was sent to Crowder to repair the roof at Bay Oaks. Social media will be increased and CELCAB Member Henderson volunteered to assist. The underground exhibit was inspected and was ready to go. Laser lights will be installed to replace the LEDs. CELCAB Member Werner questioned what happened to recommendations from the engineers who visited the site a couple of weeks before Ian hit. Director Hauge was unsure but will check with Museum Manager Adam Knight. A discussion was held regarding a re-grand opening and how the Friends would be involved.

He reported that Adam and Ashley were conducting tours for Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) a couple of times a week.

Mound House restrictions were discussed with Chair Hill, who noted they deferred to the Town. Chair Hill stated that it was time to review the Strategic Plan and suggested it be added to next month's agenda. She also suggested a site plan be developed so they knew where the restrooms and vegetation would be installed at Newton Park. CELCAB Member Werner commented that the permanent restrooms should be in the center of the property to protect the view corridors. She questioned whether they could incorporate the Strandview access to make it seem like one large entity. Members agreed with Liaison Atterholt's idea that the restrooms be next to the parking. Chair Hill stated that she was not informed of the previous night's lecture and that members were supposed to receive emails before events at the Mound House. Discussion was held concerning a more robust social media campaign and CELCAB Member Henderson reiterated her offer to assist. Director Hauge replied that the information would be sent out.

VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Renaming Newton Park

CELCAB Member Henderson described Newton Park as a hub and did not want to lose that feeling.

CELCAB Member Werner wanted to change the name but did not want to name it after a person.

CELCAB Member Smith suggested Seven Seas, the name of the guest cottage on the property.

CELCAB Member Simpson favored renaming it Seven Seas but questioned whether people would understand the name since the Town was not on a sea. She wondered whether they could incorporate Gulf in the name.

Chair Hill suggested surveying the community about renaming the park.

Discussion was held regarding the Newton's Nazi history.

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved to change the name of Newton Park; second by CELCAB Member Werner.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

(CELCAB Member Smith had to leave.)

Liaison Atterholt commented that it was important to manage the message concerning renaming the property.

CELCAB Member Werner mentioned naming it Gulfside Park and a conversation ensued.

VIII. FRIENDS OF MOUND HOUSE REPORT

Chair Hill noted a coordinator or member of staff should be the liaison between the Friends and CELCAB.

Chair Hill questioned where the marketing plan was for the Mound House. She stated if they could not locate it, another would have to be created. She noted it was crucial to digitize the museum collection and put it in the strategic plan as a goal. She questioned where they were in the accreditation process. Director Hauge replied that it could take years to digitize the collection and must be completed before the museum could be accredited. He indicated that a collection manager would be hired to document the inventory.

Director Hauge will update the organizational chart and distribute it to members.

Chair Hill questioned the facility rental fees and Director Hauge responded that the fees did not change this year. Director Hauge noted that Paster Shawn said that parking at Beach Baptist was available. Director Hauge did not inquire about the agreement, but he will.

Chair Hill questioned the status of Resilient Lee, it was confirmed that the group would present their draft proposal at the County Commissioner's December meeting.

The museum hours have been changed to Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The grounds are open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Liaison Atterholt provided suggestions for social media outlets.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

No items.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – November 14, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved to adjourn; second by CELCAB Member Henderson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Adopted 1/18/24 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: Rashid Ali

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