

MINUTES
Town of Fort Myers Beach
Cultural and Environmental Learning
Center Advisory Board “CELCAB”
Bay Oaks Recreation Center – 2731 Oak St.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Thursday, February 22, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Kerrie Henderson (via phone), Barbara Hill, Betty Simpson, Cherie Smith, Ellen Vaughan and Becky Werner.

Excused: Patrick McKeown

Town Staff: Museum Manager Adam Knight

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

A consensus was reached to allow Kerrie Henderson to participate via phone.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2024

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved to approve the minutes; seconded by CELCAB Member Smith.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. TOWN ATTORNEY SUNSHINE LAW PRESENTATION – tabled to a future meeting.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Manager Knight distributed a breakdown of the January numbers. Highlights included rentals of the Mound House by the Estero Island Garden Club and the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce, which held an after-hours social with food and beverages donated by the Friends of the Mound House. Manager Knight discussed removing an object from public view until he could contact the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

CELCAB Member Henderson questioned contacting universities in the area for students to develop a landscape plan for Newton Park. Manager Knight replied that Director Hauge was working with the Naples Botanical Garden regarding the best vegetative plants for dune establishment. Discussion was held regarding renourishing the beach.

Manager Knight stated that he submitted the application to the museum assessment program and should hear back within 30-45 days. If accepted, there will be a multi-step workshop process

between the core members of the team and a peer reviewer from the American Alliance of Museums, who will assist the team with the process.

Manager Knight stated the Mound House was awarded a \$22,000.00 grant from the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce Water Foundation for installing and maintaining a water quality gauge at the observation pier at the Mound House. The data will be live-streamed on the Mound House website. The Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) water school will assist in installing, maintaining and calibrating the gauge.

Manager Knight reported they were in the early stages of providing better public access to the museum, reducing potential liabilities and increasing capacity. He noted more people were fishing from the observation pier and they were exploring expanding parking by four or five spaces. He summarized the remaining items in the report, including a discussion next month regarding a permanent collection storage location at the Mound House. He suggested utilizing the 1921 bathroom space.

Manager Knight noted there were just over 200 memberships. He provided details regarding how three musket balls were discovered near the dinghy dock in August 2022.

CELCAB Member Vaughan suggested collecting shells from the beach and offering them to children who visit the Mound House.

Manager Knight reported that a copper-based metal roof was being sourced as the foundation for the cedar shake shingles. He indicated there were a couple of leaks in the roof, but they were not as intense as in the fall. He added that none of the artifacts or the structure of the Mound House were at risk.

VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION –Newton Park Redevelopment/Redesign

Manager Knight did not have any information, but he noted that more feedback was needed from CELCAB regarding the overall scope of the park. Chair Hill thought they were very articulate with what they wanted. Everything there before the hurricane, except for the building, should be on the property per the Florida Communities Trust. Manager Knight commented that the guidelines would be followed, including paved parking, vegetation surrounding the property, a recreation element, interpretive signage, beach access and public programs. Chair Hill stated that they needed a plan to determine where everything would be. She added that they relied on experts to plan the site for the best use of the property.

Liaison Atterholt revealed that FEMA would fund an overall management plan for the town and maybe Newton Park could be included. He suggested that Director Hauge meet with the town manager to discuss details.

Manager Knight researched methods of landscape lighting for the Mound House. He investigated solar-powered bollards along the main pathway, but the lack of sunshine would dictate the placement. Pathway lighting would require about four inches of trenching and follow sections that could not be lit with solar products. Manager Knight noted that they had to determine whether an electrical hook-up was in the parking lot before moving forward with a synchronized lighting plan. Discussion was held regarding the history of landscape lighting. Liaison Atterholt commented that the town accepted \$8 million from Florida Power & Light (FP&L) for lighting on Estero Blvd. and the side streets. He suggested that the Mound House be built into the lighting system plan.

Manager Knight stated that a temporary lighting plan for the parking lot included small solar-powered ring lights that were flush along the ground. He described an area that could consist of up to six parking spaces; however, five sabal palms would have to be removed. Parking on Connecticut St. could also be utilized but may require a parking ordinance change by the town council. Discussion was held regarding increasing the number of Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA) parking spaces. Chair Hill opposed any additional parking because she felt it would detract from the Mound House experience and removing five sabal palms was inappropriate. Manager Knight described how to expand the shell drive to create a place for buses to park and a discussion ensued.

MOTION: Chair Hill moved to look into the possibility of reconfiguring the 216 parking space to allow for temporary bus parking; seconded by CELCAB Member Werner.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Knight noted a new wheelchair would be ordered and that he and the Director were investigating using the golf cart replacement funds to purchase a vehicle for outreach purposes.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

CELCAB Member Vaughan noted the Friends of the Mound House fundraiser Artful Intersection 4.0 was scheduled for March 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Mound House. She described items that would be auctioned. Tickets were \$100.00 and available on the Mound House website or at the Mound House. Manager Knight shared a wish list with the Friends and noted the funding range of items was from \$13,200.00 to \$21,800.00.

CELCAB Member Smith commented the Mound House contained the only gift items on the island and should be promoted. She indicated that people from around the country were visiting the Mound House. Bob Haight completed the documentary and would contact CELCAB when it was ready to view.

CELCAB Member Werner added that a person from Fiji visited the other day.

CELCAB Member Simpson noted she received positive comments from items purchased at the gift store. She appreciated Manager Knight for the information provided at today's meeting.

CELCAB Member Henderson appreciated Manager Knight's hard work.

Liaison Atterholt mentioned the three locations to store the pump-out boat and indicated the kayak launch at Bay Oaks was at the top of the list.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – March 28, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: CELCAB Member Werner moved to adjourn; seconded by CELCAB Member Simpson.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Adopted 03/28/2024 with/without changes. Motion by Betty Simpson/Seconded by Cherie Smith
(DATE)

Vote:

6-0

Signature:

Amy Ball, Town Clerk

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