

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Fort Myers Beach**  
**Cultural and Environmental Learning**  
**Center Advisory Board "CELCAB"**  
Town Hall Chambers – 2731 Oak St.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Thursday, June 20, 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 (virtually), Barbara Hill, Patrick McKeown, Betty Simpson (virtually joined at 3:20), Cherie Smith, Ellen Vaughan and Becky Werner.  
Town Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge and Museum Manager Adam Knight.

CELCAB members unanimously voted to allow BORCAB Member Henderson to participate virtually.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 28, 2024**

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

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

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

**V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Manager Knight reported that the Mound House roof was replaced, but the chimney needed repair and the grout had to be restored before they could proceed. A historic mason was scheduled to inspect the chimney on Monday and will provide a scope of work. After the chimney is repaired, the chimney cap can be replaced. The gutters need to be replaced, and quotes will be obtained next week. Director Hauge noted that the repairs will be submitted for FEMA reimbursement. CELCAB Member Werner asked whether the chimney had to function to maintain its status and Manager Knight will check.

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce Water Foundation was reviewing a grant application to install a water quality station at the Mound House. The museum assessment program team has been meeting regularly. A grant to repair the underground museum was submitted and Manager Knight will know the outcome on July 1, 2024. Two new brown navigational signs were installed on Estero Blvd. He was looking into adding parking at the Mound House; however, it was determined that buses would not fit. Another option was to park the buses along Connecticut St. between the entrance and exit of the shell loop outside of the fence. He added that relocating the Sabal Palms would create five or six parking spots. Manager Knight stated that the lights on the observation pier would be replaced and that FEMA would reimburse them.

CELCAB Member Smith questioned whether they could get more information on the underground exhibit since the video was destroyed. Manager Knight indicated it might take up to two years

before the underground exhibit opens and explained that the process included making the exhibit resilient to future flooding events. Chair Hill questioned whether the video could be reconstituted for the next two years. Manager Knight replied that the video relied on the rope lights and thought that the video without the lights would confuse visitors. He noted that Ashley was planning a training program for volunteers in the fall.

A summer marketing campaign started with an admissions coupon to 20,000 households in Bonita Springs and South Fort Myers. The Mound House will be added to a tourist map specific to Fort Myers Beach by 2025. Visitors were also targeted via Spotify and Manager Knight secured a partnership to promote the Mound House through a digital ad campaign.

Native landscaping was being replaced and the beds would be replenished. Discussion was held regarding which plants would be replaced. Manager Knight indicated that plant signs would be added, but signs for non-native plants that did not survive the hurricane would not be replaced. He reviewed upcoming staff continuing education classes and the summer program schedule detailed in his report. Discussion was held regarding lowering fees and increasing revenues.

## VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### A. MAP Updates and Discussion

CELCAB members submitted their surveys to Manager Knight. He read guiding questions concerning whether CELCAB represented the demographics of the community served. Discussion was held regarding removing residency requirements to serve on some committees. He continued by questioning whether any gaps in CELCAB exist that could create challenges or miscommunications in the various communities the museum served. How do the experiences and strengths of CELCAB align with what they need to achieve their goals? CELCAB Member Smith stated that she missed Bill Grace's expertise and discussed the lack of institutional knowledge of the island on some of the committees and staff turnover.

Chair Hill brought up ambiguity regarding the responsibilities and rules of what CELCAB does, what the Friends do, what staff is responsible for and the leadership of the council and town manager. She would like more clarification from the town manager on how the town should deal with various groups to avoid competition. Director Hauge responded that the line was starting to be defined and brought up Sunshine Laws. Discussion was held regarding the domain of the Friends, docents and CELCAB members.

B. MAP Board Profile – Group Activity – will be added to the summary.

C. Collection Storage Update – New Town Hall

Manager Knight reported that there will be a dedicated space for the collection at the new town hall. Brianna Gehweiler was hired to start on July 29, 2024, and would be the first person dedicated to collections.

D. Newton Park Design Draft

Director Hauge displayed and described the design rendering. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION:** CELCAB Member McKeown moved to approve the draft with modifications as mentioned, seconded by CELCAB Member Vaughan.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

CELCAB Member Henderson asked that notification of the meetings be communicated to her with at least four days' notice so she can schedule her flight. Director Hauge suggested that upcoming meeting dates be finalized at the next meeting. A consensus was reached to schedule meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

CELCAB Member Smith noted the documentary regarding the Mound House should be completed in December. She commented that the town council's vision of the town's future would be helpful. CELCAB Member Vaughan noted that Friends will meet at the Mound House next Monday at 1:00 p.m.

CELCAB Member McKeown clarified that members could participate via ZOOM in the future if there was a quorum. He announced that he would give a talk on the Mound House to the Southwest Florida Historical Society in January 2025.

No items from other members.

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

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – August 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

Manager Knight stated that he needed members' availability from the last week of July through the end of September for the peer reviewer meeting.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Adopted 8/22/2024 with/without changes. Motion by Betty Simpson / seconded by Ellen Vaughan  
(DATE)

Vote: 7-0 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

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