

MINUTES
Town of Fort Myers Beach
Cultural and Environmental Learning
Center Advisory Board "CELCAB"
Town Hall Chambers – 2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Thursday, March 27, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Hill, Carolyn McKeown, Betty Simpson, Cherie Smith, Ellen Vaughan and Becky Werner.

Excused: Kerrie Henderson

Town Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge, Museum Manager Adam Knight and Cultural Resources Coordinator Karina Britez.

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 27, 2025

CELCAB Member Vaughan requested that the minutes be amended to state the Friends were not paying \$2,000.00 a year for web services.

MOTION: CELCAB Member Werner moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by CELCAB Member Smith.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: CELCAB Member McKeown moved to approve the minutes, seconded by CELCAB Member Vaughan.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Manager Knight reviewed the report included in the packet. Attendance remained steady, outreach was ongoing, merchandise revenue was included, marketing campaigns were strong, and some campaigns were through discovery maps. Breanna Vaccaro spoke at a career panel for the University of West Georgia. They were bringing the Mound House into fire compliance with new exit signs, extinguishers, etc. The museum registrar attended an archaeological boot camp training and Manager Knight gave an interview to WUCF for a statewide PBS of the Florida road trip services. They were collecting quotes for the landscape restoration, staff repaired the existing irrigation system and three new year-round residents signed up to volunteer for kayaking and museum docents. A volunteer appreciation day will be April 26, 2025 and details will follow.

Staff attended a service learning workshop through Florida Gulf Coast University. Manager Knight will provide the number of volunteers at the next meeting.

VII. UNDERGROUND EXHIBIT

Manager Knight stated that there was nothing tangible to report, although there have been a lot of meetings and he was waiting for feedback from outside experts. BORCAB Member Vaughan wondered whether they could bring Theresa Schober on as a consultant for the project. Manager Knight indicated that there were certain procedures that the town's legal team was looking into since the state laws were very specific and involved. A discussion was held regarding the town's priorities, timelines and the cultural importance of the exhibit. Chair Hill would like to consult with Ms. Schober to provide valuable input and make the progress move forward a little more efficiently. Regarding working pro bono, Ms. Schober said she would help in any way she could and Chair Hill thought that sounded like pro bono.

Liaison Atterholt suggested that the town attorneys contact Ms. Schober for the history. CELCAB Member Werner also suggested that Susan Grace be contacted. Director Hauge indicated they were still trying to schedule the industrial hygienist from the insurance company. Discussion was held about mitigating the mold, installing a plexiglass window so people could view the exhibit, putting glass in front of the exhibit and keeping people safe. Director Hauge stated that (Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had not released any money and now the funds were frozen. He will check what the insurance company paid and report back at the next meeting.

VIII. NEWTON BEACH PARK

Director Hauge reported that the restroom trailer should be moved in tomorrow morning and would be open if Florida Power & Light (FP&L) installed the meter. The parking lot was rough, with about eight spots available and the curb stops were not in yet. Beach renourishment was scheduled to be complete by May 31, 2025. He hoped to receive the \$3.5 million from CDBGDR by June or July for redevelopment. Director Hauge indicated more trash cans would be added in a couple of days. The park's design was discussed and Director Hauge noted that CELCAB would be able to review it before construction.

IX. MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MAP) ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Manager Knight indicated that the report was divided into sections and these were the first three. Sections will be reviewed over the next three meetings. The MAP team met about every two weeks for six months. He reviewed the genesis of the program.

A. MISSION AND PLANNING

The beginning of the section relates the core standards of what makes a good and efficient museum and the steps for accreditation. CELCAB Member Vaughan commented that Estero Bay Preserve was listed as a state park, but it was an aquatic preserve. Chair Hill replied that this was not a legal document and that a couple of other labels were incorrect in the report. Manager Knight added that it was an internal document and the MAP team would not correct errors; however, it was important that it be correct for the future. Manager Knight explained why the mission statement was important and felt it might be a

good time to revisit it. He agreed that hiring an outside facilitator to help guide them was a good idea. He thought the mission and the strategic plan could be split into two conversations. The definition of a strategic plan was discussed. Manager Knight reviewed the recommendations on page 10. Chair Hill thought the recommendations were thoughtful and made sense.

B. GOVERNANCE

Manager Knight noted there were some concerns and challenges regarding better ways to work more efficiently to accomplish their goals. Membership and the role of the Friends were discussed.

Liaison Atterholt discussed the recommendations regarding the role and dynamics of the mayor. He thought the relationship between the town council and CELCAB was very appropriate and supported empowering and giving deference to CELCAB. He added that there was a synergy between the two groups that worked very well. Discussion was held regarding previous directors, donations, rotating exhibits and communication.

C. PUBLIC TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY – tabled.

X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

CELCAB Member Smith clarified that she was welcome to return as a docent. She mentioned creating a reflection area outside the Mound House to recognize people. Director Hauge commented that they had the memorial bench program.

CELCAB Member Simpson indicated that the meeting was a challenge, but it helped to discuss the lack of communication.

No items from other members.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments.

XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – April 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: CELCAB Member Vaughan moved to adjourn, seconded by CELCAB Member Smith.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Adopted 4/24/2025 with/without changes. Motion by Robby Simpson
(DATE)

Vote: all Signature: Rash Hill