

**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, April 24, 2025

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Hill.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

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

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

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

A consensus was reached to allow CELCAB Members McKeown and Werner to participate virtually.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 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 Simpson moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by CELCAB Member Smith.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments.**

**VI. STAFF REPORT**

Manager Knight reviewed the April report for visitation and attendance through various programs, outreach, membership, merchandise revenue, rentals, social media reach, social media followers, print marketing initiatives and what staff have been doing. The kayak tours increased and admission is steady. Membership is increasing with renewals and new members. He noted that Coordinator Britez transitioned them from a physical membership card system to a digital card system. Members were enjoying the convenience and ease of use.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) visited the underground exhibit to check on the status of work that had or had not been done regarding surveying the structure and any contents. They will produce a mitigation plan for the town, but no timeline was given. During the inspection, it was noticed that the PVC mural panels were starting to warp from the humidity. The panels

were removed to prevent further damage and five of the seven were temporarily installed on the side of the kayak shed. Staff will apply for a small matching grant through the Florida Department of Historic Resources to pay for a feasibility study for the underground exhibit. The goal of the study was to research all the options to fix the exhibit. The grant review will be in Fall 2025, and the funds will be available on July 1, 2026.

Manager Knight stated that the water quality sensor was installed in Estero Bay and measures conditions within 10 minutes. Water current, water flow, algae content, pH, salinity and temperature can be measured. A widget will be added to the website so people can view it and check the overall quality of the water. Director Hauge added that a press release will be distributed. Manager Knight said they will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

A volunteer appreciation day will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 10:00-12:00 at the Mound House.

Museum Registrar Vaccaro has been accepted to speak at the Southeastern Museum Conference in October 2025 regarding collection storage spaces. Manager Knight was accepted to speak at the same conference about community engagement. The Artifact Preservation Center officially opened last Saturday on lab day, which is a public program hosting 18 people. The lab is available by appointment only.

Liaison Atterholt suggested that they consider accommodating a water ferry in the future and Director Hauge replied that they have been discussing plans and potential partnerships.

Signs were installed on the observation pier and the small dinghy dock.

CELCAB Member Vaughan asked whether they could install plexiglass on the wood doors to the underground exhibit. Manager Knight replied that light and ventilation were an issue and allowing people to get that close could be a safety issue. Liaison Atterholt brought up installing a camera with a light. Manager Knight responded that the exhibit looked very rough, but they discussed displaying before and after pictures with an explanation. He added that a digital scan of the room was taken and he was researching how to display that in the museum. CELCAB Member Smith knows an industrial hygienist and will give her information to Director Hauge.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS - MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MAP) ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **A. GOVERNANCE**

Manager Knight noted that they got about halfway through the section at the last meeting. Ms. Smith discussed feedback about governance from the stakeholders and noted that not everyone was on the same page. She said that the MAP was an assessment of stakeholder viewpoints regarding what was going on, where they had consensus, where was the confusion, what was working, what needed work and what was the future of the organization. She indicated it was a good gathering source of many different perspectives.

Due to technical difficulties, the balance of the agenda will be continued on May 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The recording stopped here.

### **B. PUBLIC TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

## **VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments.**

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – May 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

VOTE:

Adopted 5/22/25 with/without changes. Motion by CEL CAB member Simpson  
(DATE)

Vote: unanimously. Signature: Rash Hill