

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Town Hall – Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Cristina Denegre, Greg Holmes, Glen Thompson, Bill Veach, and Keri Weeg.

Excused: Cheryl Clark

Staff present: Keith Laakkonen

Council Liaison: Dan Andre

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 14, 2015

MOTION: Ms. Andre moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. ?

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ceel Spuhler, resident, remarked that she had been receiving calls regarding a No Trespassing sign on a path along the lagoon. Mr. Laakkonen explained that the Town did not have jurisdiction over the area and he explained prescriptive easement. Ms. Spuhler commented on the height of mangroves and how some had been trimmed. Mr. Laakkonen recommended that residents contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for guidance on mangroves.

VI. NEW ITEMS

No new items.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beachscape Program (Veach)

Mr. Laakkonen suggested utilizing Public Works crews for beach plantings. He indicated the seawall at Newton Park should be complete within 45-60 days and they could plant after receiving clearance from the Town Manager. Mr. Veach stated he would contact Scott Baker, Public Works Director, to set up a meeting.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ms. Andre indicated the first orientation was scheduled for February 19, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. with 9 participants and 8 participants signed up for the 5:00 p.m. session. She noted that 7 accesses had not been accounted for, but they were on the south end. She stated that Mr. Laakkonen would lead the first two orientations and Ms. Andre would lead the remainder. Mr. Laakkonen reported that he would research whether the t-shirt vendor had been chosen. Ms. Weeg noted she would provide publicity.

C. Community Outreach/MRTF Event (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg reported she would meet with Bonnie as soon as Bonnie's schedule allowed. Chair Veach commented that the singer/songwriter guitar circle could participate in a song competition event. He brought up the possibility of an iron chef contest with sustainable sea foods. Ms. Weeg indicated that restaurants at Santini Plaza may not be on board with the contest, but she would check. Chair Veach indicated that he would not be in town on May 9, and questioned if the date could be changed. Ms. Weeg replied that she would check with Bonnie regarding a date change.

D. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

Ongoing.

E. FAQs (Weeg)

Ongoing.

F. Informational Sticker for Rental Boats (Clark)

Ongoing.

G. Brochure Distribution (all)

Mr. Laakkonen indicated he had brochures for distribution.

H. Canals (Thompson)

Mr. Thompson reported that he had not heard back from Hans Wilson. Mr. Laakkonen revealed that he would meet with Mr. Wilson on the 20th. He stated the two issues were navigation and water quality. Mr. Thompson noted that the local committee's number one focus was navigation and water quality second. He reported that aerators may not be effective in shallow canals. He stated the critical feature was dissolved oxygen and he planned to measure it as soon as he had the ability to do so.

I. Investigate Clean Beach Certifications (Veach)

Ongoing.

J. Branding for Nature/Ecotourism (Veach)

Bird & nature identification panel for beach accesses - Chair Veach reported that CELCAB and CRAB provided feedback regarding the poster. He indicated he would continue to work on the poster.

Education panels for parks - Chair Veach felt more education panels were needed in parks. Mr. Laakkonen reported that Lee County was planning to install panels in some parks for educational outreach as part of the DEP permit.

Statues for parks - Newton, Mound House, & Crescent Beach - Chair Veach indicated he would like to put life size statues of animals in parks for educational purposes.

K. Mulholland Award (all)

Mr. Laakkonen revealed that he received two nominations.

L. Local Water Quality Initiates - Rain Gardening Promotion (Veach/Weeg)

Chair Veach revealed that he did not receive responses from his email. Ms. Weeg stated she would reach out to the garden club.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Andre reported that beach patrol would be a part of the Adopt a Beach program. Chair Veach felt No Parking signs after 9:00 p.m. would help clarify hours of beach accesses.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Andre agreed with Ms. Weeg regarding the horizontal education panel and he stated the hours for seasonal parking were 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Andre.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Adopted 11/12/15 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

- End of document