

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Cheryl Clark, Cristina Denegre, Greg Holmes, Glen Thompson, Bill Veach, and Keri Weeg.
Staff present: Keith Laakkonen
Council Liaison: Dan Andre

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 11, 2015

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A woman (Ceel Spuhler?) asked Mr. Laakkonen about opening up the little Estero tidal pool. Mr. Laakkonen replied that he was working on that with the West Coast Inland Navigational District (WCIND) and he would present information to MRTF in the future.

VI. NEW ITEMS

No new items.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beachscape Program (Veach)

On hold.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ongoing. Ms. Andre reported that she received positive feedback and Diamond Head was on board. She commented that she needed additional t-shirts. Ms. Weeg spoke to the people who run the Key Estero parking lot regarding trash pick-up, but she has not been able to reach the owner. Ms. Andre revealed that she would host a gathering at the Mango Street Inn on June 29 at 5:00 p.m. Discussion was held concerning dogs off-leash.

C. Community Outreach/MRTF Event (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg reported that Bonnie Roberts was going through chemo and radiation and she would not be available to help with the event until possibly August. Chair Veach drafted a brochure and he stated that they needed to name the event. Discussion was held concerning dates. Ms. Weeg offered to check the calendar for upcoming events. Chair Veach noted that he invited restaurant critic Jean Le Boeuf to attend.

D. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

Ongoing.

E. FAQs (Weeg)

Ongoing.

F. Brochure Distribution (All)

Mr. Laakkonen noted the brochures were stored off Island while Town Hall was under construction.

G. Canals (Thompson)

On hold.

H. Branding for Nature/Ecotourism (Veach)

Bird & Nature Education Panel and Educational Brochure, NPS Style

Chair Veach reported that he discussed adding identification panels to beach accesses with CRAB and they stated they did not want to clutter the area, but they would support mounting panels on the railings. He shared educational panels from his trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Chair Veach noted that TDC funds may be available and he indicated that he would research funding opportunities. Mr. Laakkonen suggested they contact Maran at the Shark Harbor National Estuary Program for input on designing the panels.

I. Vehicles on Beach

On Town Council's June 15, 2015 agenda. Mr. Laakkonen reviewed the history of the issue. Discussion was held regarding enforcement.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to have Chair Veach express MRTF's opposition to vehicles on the beach at the June 15, 2015 Town Council meeting; second by Mr. Thomson.

VOTE: Motion passed; 6-1 (with Ms. Clark opposing).

J. Local Water Quality Initiates - Rain Gardening Promotion (Weeg)

Mr. Laakkonen indicated that Town Council would discuss the issue at their meeting on June 15, 2015. Ms. Weeg reported that she contacted the Estero Island Garden Club and another organization concerning rain gardens and she would provide information at the next meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to allow Chair Veach to speak to Town Council on June 15, 2015 to promote the idea of giving people credit for retaining rain water on their land through a rain garden; second by Ms. Andre.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Clark questioned whether dumpster lids were required to be closed. Mr. Laakkonen replied in the affirmative. Ms. Clark noted that the Estero Bay Water Quality program was looking for volunteers. Ms. Weeg stated that she would write an article to that effect.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Weeg noted that a memorial service would be held for Jo Finney on Sunday. She indicated that Popeyepalooza was being held on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Ms. Weeg stated that John Heim's water rally would be held on July 12, 2015. She thanked Ms. Clark for working with her on the water monitoring site information.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Andre.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Adopted 6/15/15 with/without changes. Motion by Bill Veach
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: [Signature]

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