

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Greg Holmes, Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta, Bill Veach and Keri Weeg.
Staff present: Rae Blake

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 13, 2016

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to approve the minutes; second by Ms. Spalletta.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Annie Babcock remarked that the heavy trucks and forklift took thousands of live shells and she felt the action was unconscionable. She discussed the difference between a warning and a citation regarding dogs off leash on the beach, the lack of enforcement, glass bottle violations, and live shell warnings. She provided a list of dogs off leash and glass bottle warnings from 2015.

Ms. Blake indicated that beach patrol was working on a new policy concerning dogs off leash. She will check on whether warnings were tracked in the computer system. Scott Baker, Director of Public Works, discussed warnings and citations for dogs off leash and glass bottles, providing education rather than discipline and the six-foot leash requirement. He encouraged people to call his office regarding live shelling. Mr. Baker stated that he had to dispose of the shells because they were causing a mess. Mr. Baker noted that issuing citations was difficult when people refused to show identification. He offered to work with Chair Veach regarding the MRTF handout.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. MRTF Recommendations to Council (All)

Chair Veach summarized four items regarding the meeting with Mr. Torgerson, which included beach renourishment, seawall, a lighting plan and dune plants. He discussed seawalls and retaining walls, replacing existing seawalls and other rigid structures, turtle-friendly seawalls and vegetation and installing a seawall at Lynn Hall Park. Discussion was held regarding constructing ten foot walls and blocking the view of the beach. Consensus was reached regarding the seawall to recommend that Mr. Torgerson

commit to maintaining and paying for the dune like they proposed without damaging adjacent properties. Chair Veach will draft the recommendation. Discussion was held concerning seawall heights. Ms. Andre supported Mr. Torgerson replacing seawalls as long as he followed guidelines. Consensus was reached that the seawall go landward only. Chair Veach stated that conditions would include dune plants, lighting plans, stormwater management, a bond system to pay for beach renourishment and to maintain it at a certain level.

B. Rain Gardens (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg stated that she will contact Mr. Rodwell and report back by the next meeting.

C. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ms. Andre noted that several volunteers signed up as a result of the article in the paper. She is working with Oasis High School and things were moving forward.

D. Beachscape and Dune Plantings (Veach)

Ms. Blake will contact Mr. Baker concerning the plan provided by Chair Veach.

E. Community Outreach (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg stated the event was scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2016 at Santini Plaza. Ms. Blake reported that extra permitting was not required. Discussion was held concerning possible events and an invitation list. Ms. Weeg volunteered to create a master list of invitees.

F. FAQ for Shelling and Dogs on Fort Myers Beach (Spalletta and Holmes)

Ms. Spalletta reviewed 14 FAQ for live and dead shells. She will create FAQ for live shells by the next meeting.

Mr. Holmes shared FAQ for dogs. Discussion was held regarding fines from the Town versus fines from the County.

G. Environmental Education (Weeg and Veach)

Chair Veach requested TDC funding for installing interpretive panels for Newton Park and all beach accesses. Ms. Blake noted that Chelsea O'Riley, Administrative Specialist, handled all TDC requests and she required additional information from MRTF.

H. Branding of Nature and Ecotourism (Veach)

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Spalletta reported on a promotion called Skip the Straw to limit the number of straws on the beach. She offered to check into details.

Ms. Weeg reported on meetings regarding water quality and she indicated more information

would be available in the newspaper.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Lubig moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

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

Vote: 9-0 Signature: 

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