

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Greg Holmes, Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta, Bill Veach and Keri Weeg.

Excused: Tree Andre

Staff present: Rae Blake and Chelsea O'Riley.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the Adopt a Beach Program, February 11, 2015 and October 15, 2015.

Add the importance of dune management to the Adopt a Beach document.

MOTION: Mr. Holmes moved to approve the Adopt a Beach document as amended; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed; 3-0 with Mr. Lubig and Ms. Spalletta abstaining.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to approve the February 11, 2015 and October 15, 2015 minutes; second by Chair Veach.

VOTE: Motion passed; 3-0 with Mr. Lubig and Ms. Spalletta abstaining.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beachscape Program (Veach)

Chair Veach suggested to Council that dune plants be planted at Newton Park, but he had not heard back. Ms. O'Riley informed Chair Veach that Newton Park was under the Cultural and Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board (CELCAB). Chair Veach described the beachscape program for the benefit of Ms. Spalletta and Mr. Lubig. He indicated that he would go back to Council for direction on Newton Park and whether they should reevaluate what was done with the northern renourishment program. Ms. Riley suggested asking Council about starting Phase 2 instead of limiting plantings to Newton Park. Chair Veach agreed.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre) - no report.

C. Community Outreach/MRTF Event (Weeg)

Ms. Blake and Ms. Weeg discussed publishing articles monthly to spotlight a particular species of plant or animal found on the beach. Ms. O'Riley noted that Scott Baker, Director of Public Works, asked Ms. Blake and MRTF to focus on educational and community outreach with the elementary school and Bay Oaks. Ms. Blake stated that she had experience with sunshine state educational write-ups. Consensus was reached to come back with ideas for the program.

Discussion was held concerning hosting a cooking event in conjunction with Santini Plaza during season. Ms. O'Riley noted that Council would have to approve the event. Chair Veach questioned forming a sub-committee to organize the event. Ms. Blake stated she would investigate Sunshine Laws.

D. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

Chair Veach noted that he had two articles ready for editing and he would email them to Ms. Blake. Ms. O'Riley suggested asking Council what they preferred to do about rotating articles between newspapers.

E. Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg stated she would email the FAQs to Ms. Blake for distribution.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to remove canals from the agenda; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

F. Canals

G. Branding for Nature/Ecotourism (Veach)

Chair Veach discussed creating a graphic for beach accesses and the brochure banner. Ms. O'Riley noted that CRAB tried to remove signs on beach accesses. Chair Veach replied that CRAB was amenable to MRTF's signs. Ms. O'Riley stated that they would have to request approval from Council.

Chair Veach described a National Park Service type brochure similar to the U.S. Virgin Islands' brochure. Ms. O'Riley noted that Council would have to approve the brochure. She suggested that Chair Veach present items to Council and then request a joint meeting. Ms. Weeg will meet with Bonnie Roberts at Santini Plaza for details on logistics concerning the event before the next meeting.

H. Vehicles on Beach (Veach)

Chair Veach presented research on beach vehicles to Council but he had not heard back. Mr. Lubig discussed obtaining a handicapped accessible cart on the south end of the Island to help handicapped, disabled and elderly people get to the beach free of charge. Chair Veach summarized the history of the issue. Ms. O'Riley revealed that Town Attorney Lehnert cited liability issues with purchasing carts to rent out. Ms. O'Riley indicated that a meeting was being held to discuss beach vehicles with Mid-Island Water

Sports. Ms. O'Riley clarified that no committee member was to approach funding sources; staff was responsible for researching and applying for funding opportunities. Ms. Blake indicated she would contact Town Attorney Lehnert to discuss legal issues with beach vehicles. Discussion was held concerning stickers for the beach vehicles. Chair Veach discussed rain gardens and the brochure. Rain gardens were added to the agenda.

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

MOTION: Ms. Spalletta moved that the present Chair and Vice Chair be continued to serve the next term; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Members introduced themselves and explained why they joined MRTF. Ms. Spalletta would like to see more beach accesses at the south end. Ms. O'Riley replied that they were in the process of identifying additional accesses.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

VIII. DISCUSS SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS AND PREPARATION

Mr. Lubig will work with Chair Veach on Beach Vehicles and Chair Veach will assist Ms. Weeg with the MRTF event. Discussion was held regarding changing the meeting time. Ms. Blake will contact members to establish a time that works for all.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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