

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, May 10, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:29 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tony Lubig, Shannon Mapes, Eldon Ridener, Mary Rose Spalletta, Bill Veach and Keri Hendry Weeg.
Excused: Greg Holmes
Council Liaison: Joanne Shamp
Staff: Rae Blake

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 8, 2017

~~Ms. Spalletta~~ Ms. Blake will complete the paperwork to nominate Penny Jarrett.

MOTION: Ms. Spalletta moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by Ms. Hendry Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsey Lange with the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve discussed how jet ski's operated in the critical area wildlife areas. She stated that the dolphins and manatees were being harassed, but her office did not have the power to issue citations. She questioned whether there was anything MRTF could do to help. Ms. Lange noted that law enforcement officers were stretched thin. Mr. Lubig suggested that guides educate their customers and he offered to make phone calls to the vendors. Ms. Lange stated that she tried to schedule a meeting with vendors but they were not interested.

John Vuknic, instructor for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency and Superintendent of the Stonybrook Golf Club, distributed handouts regarding the fertilizer ordinance. He referred to the handouts while discussing reasons why the blackout period should occur in the winter instead of the summer. He discussed educational opportunities.

Ms. Shamp notified MRTF that all the advisory committees had been charged with reviewing their ordinances and making recommendations. She stated that they should bring action items to Council instead of Council directing them what to do. She informed them that Council liaisons would no longer attend meetings but were still available for assistance. Town Manager Hernstadt expounded on Ms. Shamp's description of the transition.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Fertilizer Ordinance

Mr. Ridener questioned enforcement. Ms. Hendry Weeg would like time to read through Mr. MRTF 20170510

Vuknic's material.

Ms. Mapes suggested several additions and questioned whether liquid fertilizer should be banned. She brought up laying plastic under rocks, voluntary low maintenance zones, 15 and 25 feet from any water body, spraying herbicides and educational outreach.

Chair Veach clarified that time-released nitrogen does not instantly dissolve in water. He questioned the difference in training at Sanibel. Ms. Blake explained that they had their own course while Lee County relied on another course to certify landscapers for fertilizer usage. He would like to see the impervious language tightened up. He suggested reading through the material and continuing the discussion at the next meeting.

B. Straws on the Beach

Chair Veach discovered that Miami Beach banned straws without many complaints from businesses. He thought that banning straws could be controlled through the COP and raking permits. Ms. Mapes stated that the Lani Kai used green biodegradable straws but they were more expensive than plastic straws. She suggested banning straws altogether. Chair Veach discussed not offering people straws at restaurants. Ms. Spalletta agreed with banning all straws in the Town. Mr. Ridener agreed with banning straws.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council that straws sold or distributed on the beach be biodegradable; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

C. Beachscape

The Newton Park plantings were complete. Ms. Blake described sand banks and fencing.

MOTION: Ms. Hendry Weeg moved to remove beachscape from the agenda; second by Chair Veach.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Mulholland Award

Ms. Blake received nominations for Penny Jarrett, the Estero Island Historical Society and Nature Center, Tom Myers, Keep Lee County Beautiful, Good Time Charters, Fish Tale Marina and Eddie Foster.

Ms. Blake summarized the nominations.

Ms. Hendry Weeg and Mr. Ridener nominated Tom Myers. Ms. Spalletta, Ms. Mapes and Chair Veach nominated Penny Jarrett for the individual award.

Consensus was reached to nominate Keep Lee County Beautiful and Good Time Charters. Ms. Blake will check with Town Clerk Mayher to confirm whether one or two awards would be granted. If only one, Good Time Charters would be the recipient.

E. Develop island naturalist class

Chair Veach was working with the Friends of Matanzas Pass regarding the class. He requested that it be removed from the agenda.

MOTION: Ms. Hendry Weeg moved to remove develop island naturalist class from the agenda; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

F. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"

MOTION: Chair Veach nominated Brian, Lisa and Hemingway Foske from South Fort Myers; second by Ms. Hendry Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Spalletta nominated Brittney R. from Indiana as an alternate; second by Ms. Hendry Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Spalletta noted that the Wyndam fashioned a shade on their lights and they were setting a good example for other businesses. Chair Veach suggested nominating the Wyndam next month.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Hendry Weeg enjoyed volunteering with Ms. Spalletta at the Taste of the Beach. Chair Veach felt the Shrimp parade was a good outreach opportunity. He thanked Ms. Shamp, Ms. Hendry Weeg, Mr. Lubig and all volunteers for helping. He noted the interpretive signs for beach accesses had been approved for funding but the national park-style brochure was rejected for being too similar to marketing material. Chair Veach noted they would try again next year. Ms. Spalletta reported one short crawl regarding the turtle nests. Ms. Blake indicated that the Least Terns arrived and they were on hatch watch and there were four active Snowy Plover nests.

Ms. Mapes commented on boats dumping waste outside of the Mooring Field instead of taking advantage of the pump-out boat. She questioned whether the pump-out boat could be free. Chair Veach suggested that Ms. Mapes attend an Anchorage Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Mapes brought up charging people with rain gardens less for stormwater. Chair Veach and Ms. Hendry Weeg explained that they brought the idea up last fall but it was not well received. Ms. Blake discussed planting material in swales. Chair Veach suggested consulting with CRAB on landscape issues.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Hendry Weeg.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____