

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Cultural and Environmental
Learning Center Advisory Board
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Thursday, July 26, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Hill, Betty Simpson, Ceel Spuhler, Cindy Richardson, Cherie Smith, Becky Werner and Lorrie Wolf.

Town Staff: Alison Giesen

Historical Advisor: Bill Grace

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 26, 2018

MOTION: Ms. Wolf moved to approve the minutes; second by Ms. Simpson.

VOTE: Vote passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Moyer, resident, yielded his time to the Town Manager.

VI. REPORT FROM TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Hernstadt reported that revenues at the Mound House and Newton represented (aggregate) about 40% of the total costs, which meant taxpayers contributed 60% of the costs. From a policy standpoint, they would like to keep the property tax support at that level. The budget will be based upon those figures. In the event they needed additional funding for projects, they could create an add-on list for Council's consideration.

Town Manager Hernstadt noted that expenses from the hurricane were covered under insurance and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursement. Damages not covered under insurance or FEMA would be something that could be included in the add-on list for the budget.

Ms. Werner questioned whether Town Manager Hernstadt saw the entities as assets. He replied in the affirmative. She questioned whether volunteer hours were counted in the 40% figure. Town Manager Hernstadt explained that they looked at it with simple math instead of an equation. He

indicated it was ultimately up to Council to decide whether to include the hours. Ms. Werner discussed subsidizing the entity. Town Manager Hernstadt responded that Council could adjust the millage rate in the future to help pay for those types of programs and reduce the burden on the volunteers. Ms. Werner mentioned the pressure to come up with additional funds if grants are not awarded. Town Manager Hernstadt discussed community support and the difficulty of balancing different perspectives and priorities. Discussion was held regarding budget concerns, fundraising efforts, revenue sources, expenses, maintaining a 60/40 split, fewer restrictions for renting facilities, contributions for specific projects and restricted and unrestricted contributions.

Dan Hughes, member of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Mound House, noted that when he was Mayor, they did not have discussions concerning percentages from donations. He stated that they had a modest line item for donations and contributions were oriented towards a particular purpose. He felt that it may be detrimental to fundraising efforts if donations went into the general fund of the Town instead of a Mound House project. He did not support the concept of the Town reducing taxes based on the amount of donations or other non-taxable sources. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that Council wanted to have a joint approach to some of the facilities and donations were a small part of the equation.

Ms. Spuhler noted that museums do not make money; they existed for the quality of people's life like parks and pools. She questioned whether they could broach the 60/40 split in a different way. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that they had been using the split for the last several years.

Chair Hill clarified that donations for the Mound House went to the Mound House. She suggested that any program involving children could be an ongoing contribution project. Mr. Grace was reassured that donations will benefit the Mound House. Ms. Werner stated that volunteer hours should be part of the 40%. Town Manager Hernstadt responded that including the figure would not really change the revenue expectation. Ms. Giesen felt it was important to inform Council of volunteer hours and she will start including the information in her monthly report. Ms. Werner suggested that Ms. Giesen increase her budget.

Town Manager Hernstadt pointed out that approximately 99% of the add-on list was funded last year. Chair Hill requested additional staff for Ms. Giesen. Town Manager Hernstadt indicated that the request was too late to include in the current budget.

Leon Moyer, resident, discussed the Friends donations and reviewed the Mound House budget.

VII. DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 22, 2018 MEETING

Ms. Giesen stated that the meeting was not recorded. Ms. Giesen will recreate the minutes from notes provided by Ms. Simpson and Chair Hill. She will draft the minutes and include them in the next packet for approval.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Giesen hoped to offer more weeks of Calusa Kids Camp in the future. She noted that revenue for July was double from last July. She stated that the Beach to Bay wedding was on the August 7, 2018 Town Council agenda for their approval. She described regulations surrounding special events.

IX. NEWTON BEACH PARK – FUTURE PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONS

Chair Hill questioned whether they had money in the budget for a Newton Beach Park strategic plan. Ms. Giesen suggested getting through the current budget session before addressing the topic.

X. SCHEDULE JOINT SESSION WITH TOWN COUNCIL

Ms. Giesen suggested that they discuss scheduling the joint session during their next meeting.

XI. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Richardson questioned the bees at the Mound House and making honey in the future. Ms. Giesen replied that she looked forward to making honey. She noted that they had local honey for sale at the museum.

Ms. Werner described the presentation by the children at the Science Camp. She noted that the Friends provided scholarships for the camp.

Ms. Spuhler commented on local people visiting the Mound House. She questioned the status regarding the tree. Ms. Giesen replied that the tree needed to dry out first.

* Chair Hill was asked to reviewed * design boards for the interiors and exteriors of the Margaritaville Resort. She discovered that they planned on using tiki huts from the Pacific Rim. She suggested that they build Chickee huts, use masks from the Calusa Indians and involve the Chamber of Commerce. She referred the planners to Ms. Giesen. Mr. Grace suggested giving Mr. Torgerson a copy of the Art Calusa catalog.

Carvers can create items that will be for sale.

~~Ms. Richardson was pleased that locals were attending the Mound House. She clarified that the historic register did not have staffing requirements.~~

Ms. Simpson appreciated the meeting and she was excited about offering honey from the Mound House. She questioned the range of ages in summer camp. Ms. Giesen replied that it was a pilot program and they would offer future programs for different ages depending on the themes.

Ms. Wolf thanked Town Manager Hernstadt for his involvement in the meeting.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Katherine Wallace, Friends of the Mound House, commented on the commitment of the few volunteers.

Mr. Hughes reviewed CELCAB minutes from 2005.

Leon Moyer, resident, appreciated CELCAB's dedication. He did not want them to take criticism personally, but he did not think it was a proper role of the government to be involved with the Mound House, the Newton House or pools and parks. He felt the private sector should support those entities. He supported the government protecting historical sites.

Susan Grace, resident, thanked the Friends of the Mound House for providing scholarships for two of the children who attended the summer camp.

XIII. FUTURE MEETING DATE – August 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURN

Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Adopted 10/25/18 with/without changes. Motion by Bethy Simpson
(DATE)

Vote: unanimous Signature: Barbara Hill

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