

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

Thursday, April 26, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Hill, Cindy Richardson, Betty Simpson, Cherie Smith and Lorrie Wolf.
Excused: Ceel Spuhler and Becky Werner.
Town Staff: Alison Giesen
Historical Advisor: Bill Grace

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Giesen reported that they were getting ready for hurricane season. She will travel to Tallahassee to represent the Mound House at The Florida National Register Review Board meeting on May 24, 2018. She expected to hear a final decision by July 20, 2018. Music on the Mound was very successful and approximately \$2,200.00 was raised for the scholarship fund.

Ms. Giesen noted that revenue was down slightly from last year, but not significantly. She indicated that construction was having an adverse effect on the Mound House. She reviewed the numbers from the February report and indicated that the \$81,474.00 loss was year-to-date. She noted that the website would be running as soon as details with the payment vendor were finalized. She discussed streamlining systems and utilizing her time more efficiently. She indicated that the marketing video and rack cards were at the Times Square kiosk. Ms. Giesen described assisting the Town and MRTF (Marine Resources Task Force) with the interpretive signs at beach accesses.

VI. CELCAB BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 18/19 (BOARD ACTION)

Chair Hill questioned where the \$5,000.00 was in the budget. Ms. Giesen will check and she noted those funds were whatever CELCAB deemed them to be. Ms. Smith suggested using the funds to pay for speakers for the lecture series.

MOTION: Ms. Wolf moved to request a \$5,000.00 line item for the Mound House educational and lecture series expenses; second by Ms. Smith.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VII. UPDATE OF MOUND HOUSE STRATEGIC PLAN: SHORT AND LONG-TERM GOALS

Ms. Giesen stated that they were right on target. She indicated that the plan was a working document and would evolve. Chair Hill questioned whether they needed a Council Liaison. Consensus was reached to discontinue the role. Discussion was held regarding The Friends and corporate sponsors. She indicated that she would share the monthly report with The Friends. Chair Hill questioned whether docents could attend the lecture series for free. Ms. Giesen replied affirmatively.

Ms. Giesen reported that eight new volunteers joined the Mound House.

Ms. Giesen will meet with the attorneys regarding the amendment to Resolution 0513 and she will bring it back to CELCAB. She felt that they needed to have a joint session with Town Council concerning the special events policy.

VIII. NEWTON BEACH PARK PLANNING

Chair Hill described the progress made and the passive nature of the museum. She stated that they needed to focus on programming at Newton Park. She proposed that they make “Center” plural in CELCAB to include Newton Beach Park. Ms. Giesen clarified that she was hired to be the director for the Mound House, but now she was responsible for managing two additional properties. She reviewed her history with the Town. Discussion was held regarding preserving Newton house. Ms. Giesen stated that the clear hurricane shutters would remain on the building for the entire season.

Chair Hill suggested considering a Strategic Plan for Newton Beach Park. Ms. Richardson questioned utilizing Newton for the lecture series. Ms. Giesen replied that she would like to utilize it for summer camp. She questioned whether they wanted to hire the same facilitator from CELCAB’s Strategic Session. Ms. Simpson suggested inviting the public. Chair Hill noted that they needed to be mindful of their obligation to Florida Communities Trust.

IX. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Wolf thanked Ms. Giesen for the Spanish Point trip.

Ms. Simpson questioned the conversation Council had regarding three unexcused absences during their term of office as opposed to three unexcused absences for three consecutive meetings. Ms. Giesen interpreted it to mean that it was for their entire term in office but she will check. Ms. Simpson enjoyed the Music on the Mound despite the rain. She questioned whether appetizers would suffice instead of a larger meal.

Chair Hill commented that she was concerned regarding ending the sidewalk on Connecticut Street before it reached the Mound House. She felt that ending it at Shell Mound was a safety issue and she sent an email to Council questioning why CELCAB was not involved in the conversation. She did not think the sidewalk was given due course. Mr. Grace agreed and stated that it was public property. Chair Hill questioned why the issue was not on the agenda and she hoped there

would be an opportunity in the future to extend the sidewalk. Ms. Giesen stated that the original plan was to install a sidewalk on each side of the road, but it was changed to a wider sidewalk on one side.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XI. FUTURE MEETING DATE – June 28, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

XII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Ms. Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Ms. Wolf.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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