

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

**Wednesday, March 13, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 4:48 p.m. by Vice Chair Mapes. Members present: Patty Feste, Greg Holmes, Steve Johnson and Shannon Mapes.

Excused: Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Absent: Justin Paulauskis

Staff: Rae Burns

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 13, 2019**

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Mapes moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by Ms. Feste.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Correction: Change Ms. Maples to Ms. Mapes on Page 2.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment**

**V. CURRENT ITEMS**

**A. Presentation on Non-Point Source Pollution**

Cultural Resources Education Coordinator Penny Jarrett stated that she was accepted into the PSEP (Planet Stewardship Education Program) offered through NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). She reported that she met with Dr. Parsons from FGCU (Florida Gulf coast University) and he recommended that they start an Island wide assessment using water quality data from the gulf side and bay side at several different locations. She indicated that water quality kits and analysis would be donated by FGCU. She noted that similar water testing was done at Sanibel and a website with water quality results was set up for different neighborhoods. Ms. Jarrett commented that Dr. Parsons contacted the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce and they were interested in the project. She indicated that NOAA required that children be involved in the project. She described developing a community education program to teach people about minimizing fertilizer use and she noted that educational materials already existed. She indicated that the program would be focused on nitrogen and phosphate runoff and she described the collection and testing process. Ms. Jarrett questioned whether MRTF was interested in supporting the project.

Vice Chair Mapes replied that their Green Yard Certification program could piggyback with Ms. Jarrett's project. Ms. Jarrett indicated that she would submit her NOAA project proposal in June and it was a nine-month project. She noted that they needed data to educate citizens concerning water quality issues. Environmental Technician Rae Burns stated that MRTF could present Ms. Jarrett's project to Council for consideration. Ms. Jarrett discussed recruiting volunteers. She noted that samples would be taken once a month after the initial testing and she described the training and the role of volunteers. Ms. Feste questioned whether the state tested the waters. Ms. Burns replied affirmatively and she listed the agencies currently testing the water. Ms. Jarrett discussed chemicals detected in reusable water. Ms. Burns stated that the Town did not use reusable water. Ms. Jarrett commented that they sent their water off Island but it still contributed to the reusable water used in other communities.

B. Mulholland Award

Ms. Burns noted that MRTF was not responsible for the final decision.

C. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"

**MOTION:** Ms. Feste nominated Louise \_\_\_\_\_ for the March 2019 Murphie Award; second by Mr. Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Ms. Feste nominated Chantel on Lauder St. for the April 2019 Murphie Award pending her approval; second by Mr. Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

D. ADA Accessibility onto the Beach

Ms. Burns stated that Lee County was installing walkovers at Lynn Hall Park and they will work with vendors to provide wheelchairs.

E. Reusable Bags

Ms. Burns shared a drawing for the bags and she noted that she had a PO out for the large bags from Krusty Pete's.

F. Glyphosate Use on Fort Myers Beach

Vice Chair Mapes noted that Chair Veach staked out five areas at Bay Oaks. She described the products used on each square labeled A through E: A - vinegar, salt and cinnamon oil; B - vinegar, salt and blue Dawn; C - control square; D - Avenger Organic and E - a loop hoe to show that mechanical methods could be used. She noted that the solution on square A worked completely after 30 hours, square B had brown small weeds and larger green weeds and square D had all yellow and brown weeds. Vice Chair Mapes commented that she ordered Avenger Organic online and it consisted of 70% citrus oil. She will take more pictures on Thursday and Friday. She noted that she will monitor future growth for three weeks and she discussed the cost of each product.

**G. Green Yard Certification**

Ms. Feste distributed ideas for the certification and she noted that she pulled points from the Florida Friendly matrix. She expressed concern regarding who would administer the program. Vice Chair Mapes noted that compost could be added to the fertilizer point. Ms. Feste stated that she was waiting to hear back from someone involved with Florida First for input. She will also meet with the Garden Committee for their feedback. Discussion was held regarding point system requirements, different tiers, plaques and presenting the idea to Council.

**VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Ms. Burns noted that the joint meeting with Council was scheduled for March 21, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. and she mentioned discussing a reef-safe sunscreen ordinance. She stated that mini reefs were being installed at 14 docks and 2 will be installed at Snook Bight Marina. Mini reefs will be installed at the Mound House on Friday. On March 18, 2019 Tonya Long with FWC (Fish & Wildlife Conservation) will make a sea turtle lighting presentation at the Council meeting.

Mr. Johnson – attended the International Sea Turtle Symposium.

Vice Chair Mapes – relayed a story regarding her neighbor cutting down live oaks and cabbage palms without a permit. She indicated that a real estate agent told her neighbor that they were allowed to cut the trees. She questioned educating agents and enforcing the ordinance. Ms. Burns stated that she needed pictures before they could do anything. Ms. Feste questioned whether the tree company was liable. Ms. Burns replied affirmatively and noted that the Town did not fall under Lee County’s codes. She stated that each native tree required a permit before it could be cut down. Ms. Burns requested pictures, the name of the tree company and their license number for enforcement purposes. Vice Chair Mapes confirmed that they have not heard from the DEP regarding the fertilizer ordinance. She indicated that she will not be at the next meeting.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment**

**VIII SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

Remove ADA accessibility.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Mapes moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Mr. Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Adopted 4/10 with/without changes. Motion by Veatch  
(DATE)

Vote: 4/0 Signature: [Signature]

