

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Steve Johnson, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Excused: Patty Feste, Greg Holmes and Justin Paulauskis.

Staff: Chad Chustz

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – not available.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Fertilizer Ordinance Review – no update.

B. Reusable Bags

Mr. Johnson researched Trophy Case in Fort Myers but he was not able to obtain an estimate. Chair Veach stated that their current vendor charged \$4.42 per bag and 2,500 bags would cost \$11,000.00. Sponsors would be charged \$695.00 for one of 16 spots. Mr. Johnson questioned the distribution for the advertisers. Chair Veach suggested giving them half of the bags and MRTF would distribute the rest. Discussion was held regarding a pledge form and numbering the 16 spots so advertisers could choose their location.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to move forward with 2,500 bags at a price not to exceed \$4.42 per bag for a total cost of approximately \$11,000.00 with 16 sponsor squares at \$695.00 each; second by Ms. Mapes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to give the sponsors half the bags they pay for; however, Mr. Johnson is authorized to change that number based if negotiation indicated it was desirable; second by Ms. Mapes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

C. Glyphosate Use on Fort Myers Beach

The State denied their request. Chair Veach revealed that Cape Coral maintenance
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workers were only allowed to apply products from labeled containers, so alternative formulas were not an option. Ms. Mapes will reach out to the gentleman Chair Veach spoke with.

D. MRTF Issued Certifications

1. Island Yard Certification

Ms. Feste will not be returning to MRTF. The topic was tabled.

2. Sea Turtle Lighting Certification and Educational Pamphlet

Mr. Johnson indicated that he would assemble the information after turtle season. Discussion was held regarding turtle lighting violations, installing light barriers in front of beach accesses to block light from hitting the beach and closing blinds or curtains. Ms. Spalletta questioned whether a sticker on windows would help to remind people to close blinds at night. She will contact Ms. Haverfield with Turtle Time for her input.

Discussion was held regarding invasive lizards. Chair Veach would like to write a guide concerning the lizards and he requested pictures. Ms. Mapes noted that Sanibel contracted a trapper for their iguanas and monitor lizards. Ms. Spalletta indicated that Rick Bauer, herpetologist from Lee County, would probably speak to MRTF about invasive species. Ms. Mapes will contact him. She contacted the extension office regarding lizards eating her bees, but they had not heard complaints from other beekeepers in the area.

Ms. Mapes discovered that eight manatees were killed in Estero Bay. She listed the other locations and number of manatee deaths in Lee County. Mr. Johnson indicated that there was a slight increase in deaths from years' past and the majority of deaths were due to boats. He noted it was an enforcement issue, not an issue of how many signs were installed. Discussion was held concerning what could be done to minimize manatee deaths beyond law enforcement.

E. Good Citizen aka the "Murphie"

Mr. Johnson will forward information from last month to Chair Veach.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Spalletta stated the green turtle nest hatched successfully.

Ms. Mapes researched grants to replace invasive trees with native trees and she found several. She will contact Director Giesen concerning grant writing.

Chair Veach will forward an article from South Carolina regarding banning large shovels on the beach to prevent people from digging holes and harming turtles. Mr. Johnson suggested that BASE carry shovels and fill holes while on patrol. Chair Veach addressed how long it took to fill holes. He questioned whether the mini reefs were working. Ms. Mapes noted there was material on the reefs. Ms. Spalletta questioned who was monitoring the reefs. Ms. Mapes suggested that the Town Manager would have details. Chair Veach suggested shuffling signs after turtle season.

Chair Veach mentioned that three members may not renew their MRTF seats next month. He

indicated that former member Louise Kowitch was interested in forming a MRTF committee in Bonita Springs and he offered to address the group on her behalf. He encouraged other members to speak up if they were interested in the Chair position.

MOTION: Ms. Mapes moved to invite Rick Bauer to speak about herpetology at the next meeting; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

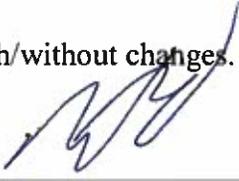
IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Adopted 10-9-19 with/without changes. Motion by VEACH
(DATE)

Vote: 4-0 Signature: 

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