

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Greg Holmes, Steve Johnson, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Unexcused: Justin Paulauskis

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley and Environmental Services Coordinator Chadd Chustz.

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 11, 2019

Change: Coordinator Chustz stated that they were prohibited from posting signs regulating speeds without the permission of the FWCC (Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission) ~~FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)~~.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by MRFT Member Mapes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Reusable Bags

MRTF Member Johnson reported that three spaces were available. Chair Veach contacted Publix and was told that an employee from the Town had to register with Publix before they could donate anything. Coordinator Chustz will contact the Town Manager concerning Publix and he will contact the Finance Department regarding invoicing sponsors. MRTF Member Spalletta will contact Pinchers and MRTF Member Johnson will follow up with previous contacts. MRTF Member Johnson relayed recommendations from a woman in Fort Myers regarding changing the layout of the bag.

B. Manatees

Chair Veach indicated that the Save the Manatees Club would send signs. Discussion was held regarding stickers for rental boats. MRTF Member Johnson questioned why the No Wake Zone was lifted from the canal by Fish Tale. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that the

signs were removed because they no longer complied with state legislation. He noted that condominium associations were joining forces with the Department of Natural Resources to reimplement No Wake Zones. He explained the difference between No Wake Zones and Slow Zones. MRTF Member Holmes will obtain sample manatee stickers.

C. Water Quality

MRTF Member Spalletta explained Option 6 of the Everglades Restoration Plan. She stated that 1/3 of the land needed (50,000 acres) was available under a state option to purchase land from the US Sugar Corporation, but industry lobbyists and others were working against the option. She suggested that they do whatever they could to promote the purchase. She noted that if US Sugar refused to sell or donate the land, the state could declare imminent domain. MRTF Member Spalletta stated that Ray Judah offered to make a presentation.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to invite Ray Judah for a short presentation regarding Option 6 on February 12, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Street Lighting

MRTF Member Johnson stated that staff was supposed to be researching the cost to install amber LED lights. He indicated that the FWC included amber LED lights as part of the FPL free lighting program, but he did not see any documentation. Director O'Riley commented that she would notify MRTF when FPL responded to her questions. Discussion was held regarding white LED lights. Chair Veach will review requirements for a Dark Sky Certification. Liaison Hosafros commented that no one had discussed researching lights from other vendors. Director O'Riley noted that she was meeting with a lighting representative regarding amber lights. MRTF Member Holmes offered to obtain prices for amber lights. Director O'Riley stated that FPL provided a rough estimate for amber lights, which was in the millions. Discussion was held regarding the need to light up Estero Blvd. in areas that were less populated. Chair Veach will draft options to present to Council. MRTF Member Johnson noted that some non-beach cities replaced white LED lights over 4,000 kelvins because they were too bright.

Director O'Riley reported that the Town purchased two beach wheelchairs and they needed a program to provide access. Chair Veach replied that they could lock up the chairs and post a phone number for access. Liaison Hosafros noted that beach chair vendors offered to administer the program for the Town.

Director O'Riley suggested that they have a joint meeting with the AAC (Anchorage Advisory Committee) to discuss topics both committees were addressing. Chair Veach agreed with the joint meeting. Director O'Riley will work out the details and report back.

Discussion was held regarding options for a beach wheelchair program.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend that the beach wheelchairs be locked up at Newton Park with a sign and a number so people could call the Town to unlock the chairs, take an ID and return the chairs when they were done; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MRTF Member Mapes suggested that the information be posted on the website.

E. MRTF Issued Certifications for Pollinator Neighborhoods – no update.

F. Good Citizen Award aka the “Murphie”

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to nominate Shannon Mapes; second by MRTF Member Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed with MRTF Member Mapes abstaining.

MRTF Member Spalletta will take a photo of people watching birds without bothering them. She suggested taking pictures of people using reusable bags.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

MRTF Member Mapes questioned whether they wanted to contact Megan Heil regarding taking pictures of the mini reefs. MRTF Member Holmes offered to take photos.

MRTF Member Johnson questioned the status of the fertilizer ordinance. Coordinator Chustz replied that it was with the attorney.

Chair Veach noted a marine safe talk presentation would be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 15, 2020, at Bayfront Bistro.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to remove Justin Paulauskis from MRTF; second by MRTF Member Mapes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Veach thanked MRTF Member Mapes for her hard work and dedication.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Adopted 2-12-20 with/without changes. Motion by VEACH
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 