

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

Thursday, January 28, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Hill, Cindy Richardson (via phone), Betty Simpson, Cheri Smith, Ceel Spuhler, Becky Werner and Lorrie Wolf.

Town Staff: Cultural Parks & Recreation Director Alison Giesen

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 17, 2020

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved to approve the minutes; second by CELCAB Member Smith.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Giesen reported that they were utilizing Zoom for the lecture series. She noted there were additional educational programs and the kayak tours continued to be very popular. She commented that Fish Tale Marina decided not to participate in boat tours, and she was looking for a vendor with the right size boat.

Director Giesen stated that Ellen Vaughn would provide an update concerning the Friends of Mound House at their next meeting.

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved that Becky Werner serves as liaison to the Friends of the Mound House; second by Chair Hill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

CELCAB Member Werner indicated that the Friends of the Mound House activities were on hold due to COVID-19. Discussion was held regarding media coverage and Gary Mooney's efforts and support.

Director Giesen shared the financial reports and stated that their membership was up despite COVID-19.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES - MOUND HOUSE

Director Giesen stated that she would meet with the contractor regarding the start date for summer camp and keep CELCAB posted. CELCAB Member Smith posed a question, to which Director Giesen replied that there was new information regarding the excavation of Mound Key and they would continue to develop new exhibits based on the findings. Chair Hill questioned the location of artifacts. Director Giesen responded that those artifacts would eventually end up with the state, but their existing collection from the Mound House was stored securely. She described the groups involved with Mound Key and noted that the state owned the property. She commented that they intended to partner with Lee County in the future regarding tours.

Chair Hill noted that they were scheduled to celebrate 100 years of the Mound House this year, but the coronavirus made it impossible to bring people onsite. CELCAB Member Werner commented that they could celebrate next year, and Director Giesen indicated that it might be possible later this year, depending on the coronavirus.

Director Giesen provided an update to the Tourism Development Council (TDC) concerning red tide, marketing efforts and programming. She added that Council Member Hosafros would mention *The Crown Jewel* at the February TDC meeting. CELCAB Member Spuhler questioned selling the book elsewhere. CELCAB Member Richardson asked about the library bookstore.

Director Giesen discussed tentative plans for behind-the-scenes tours in late August or September and she was contacting production companies for future documentary opportunities. Chair Hill brought up partnering with the Koreshans in the future.

VIII. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES - NEWTON BEACH PARK

Director Giesen stated that Newton Beach Park was stalled due to COVID-19. She noted that the cottage was painted, the landscape was being trimmed and the tiki huts were renovated. Chair Hill questioned whether the perimeter foundation bricks were still there. Director Giesen replied positively and noted that the bricks had to be continuously swept. She discussed reassessing the location for bocci ball courts and other activities that might work in the space.

Chair Hill brought up security issues. Liaison Atterholt discussed possibly hiring two additional police officers for the Town. Director Giesen stated that a new locking system and new windows in the restroom prevented vandalism.

Chair Hill noted that people used the benches, and the tiki huts all the time. CELCAB Member Werner suggested adding carved chess or checkerboards to a table. Director Giesen supported the idea.

IX. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

CELCAB Member Spuhler shared visitor's experiences at the Mound House.

Chair Hill thanked everyone for achieving their vision and keeping it flourishing. She stated that she sent a thank-you letter to *The Crown Jewel* author. She suggested that ~~it~~ be placed in Lee County Libraries. ^{this book}

CELCAB Member Simpson discussed *The Crown Jewel* and the fact that the cover picture was printed on the book. She thanked Director Giesen for always being available.

CELCAB Member Richardson noted her grandkids enjoyed their visit to the underground exhibit.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XI. FUTURE MEETING DATE – March 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

XII. ADJOURN

MOTION: CELCAB Member Simpson moved to adjourn; second by CELCAB Member Smith.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Adopted 7/22/2021 with/without changes. Motion by Betsy Simpson
(DATE)

Vote: all Signature: Richard Hill

• End of document

