

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

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Wendy DeGaetano, Steve Johnson, Rose Larkin and Mary Rose Spalletta.

Excused: Greg Fossum, Robert Howell and Jennifer Rusk.

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz.

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to accept excused members; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Spalletta moved to approve the agenda; second by MRTF Member Larkin.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – August 11, 2021**

**MOTION:** MRTF Member Spalletta moved to approve the minutes; second by Chair Johnson.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**VII. CURRENT ITEMS**

**A. Carlos Point Beach Shorebird Nesting**

Becky Snyder, Regional Conservation Biologist from Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), introduced herself. She discussed nesting birds and long-standing agreements with property owners at the southern end of Estero Blvd. to maintain the white sand area. She described the draft development plan offered to property owners to maintain or restore nesting

birds' habitats. She indicated that FWCC posted temporary refuge areas, monitored birds, and restored the areas to pre-nesting conditions afterward. Ms. Snyder mentioned that there were alternative treatments to glyphosate in the plan. She stated that they did not know why sepsis occurred in black skimmer fledglings and discussed the difficulty of removing sand spurs. Ms. Snyder noted that the nesting bird colony on the beach was the largest in Lee County and the region.

Discussion was held regarding tilling the beach, using salt water, and mowing to remove vegetation. Ms. Snyder hoped to have a final management strategy in place before the next bird nesting season. She stated that the glyphosate used by FWCC in certain areas was specifically formulated for coastal environments and recommended by The University of Florida.

#### B. Exotic Vegetation

MRTF Member Larkin noted that 161 properties were on the spreadsheet. She discussed mapping the data and subgroups. MRTF Member Spalletta cautioned against putting too much information on a single map. MRTF Member Larkin replied that they could create three separate maps for ground cover, bushes, and trees. Discussion was held regarding methods to notify homeowners. MRTF Member Larkin revealed that David Atterbridge was unable to attend the meeting. She indicated that their statement, "invasive plants and or likely invasive plants were identified on your property," was acceptable per the University of Florida.

MRTF Member Larkin reviewed using information from Sanibel's website. She discussed a slideshow that included the names of plants to replace invasives. Creating a vegetation management ordinance and certification for landscapers were discussed.

MRTF Member Larkin discussed publicity options, vegetation guidelines and levels of requirements. She volunteered to work with Mr. Atterbridge and Program Manager Chustz on a vegetation management plan. MRTF Member Degaetano offered to contact landscapers regarding the cost of removing invasive trees.

#### C. Dark Skies

Chair Johnson reviewed the current lighting standards ordinance. He brought up enforcement and compliance and questioned whether they should pursue dark skies. Liaison Veach recommended that they bring the issue up with Town Council before moving forward.

#### D. Good Citizen Award, aka the "Murphie"

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to award the Murphie to the Simmons family; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson requested that Public Works add trash cans for cigarette butts in Times Square. Program Manager Chustz indicated that he would email Director O'Riley.

### VIII. MEMBERS' ITEMS AND REPORTS

MRTF Member Spalletta stated that she was experimenting with a Phade straw to monitor decomposition. She noted that the straws were used at the Philadelphia airport.

Liaison Veach suggested that Carlos Point, Castle Beach and Islands End condos be awarded a Murphie for cooperating with the FWCC regarding nesting birds' habitats.  
No items from other members.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to reverse his Murphie nomination; second by MRTF Member Spalletta to reverse her second.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to award the Murphie to Carlos Point, Castle Beach and Islands End for their stewardship; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

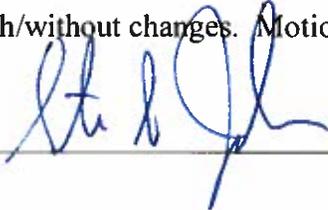
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Chair Johnson moved to adjourn; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Adopted 10-13-21 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: 

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