

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

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Greg Fossum, Robert Howell, Steve Johnson, Rose Larkin and Jennifer Rusk.

Excused: Mary Rose Spalletta

Absent: Wendy DeGaetano

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – October 13, 2021

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beach Renourishment – Staff Presentation

Project Manager Chustz utilized PowerPoint for his presentation. Slides included: Estero Island Erosion Control Report; Project Location Map; Survey Control Map; Beach Fill Plan View; North Fill Typical Sections; Central Fill Typical Section; Fill Placement and Regrading Above MHW Typical Sections; Fill Placement and Regrading Above MHW Plan View; South Fill Plan View; South Fill Typical Sections; Borrow Area Plan View; Pipeline Corridor 1 Details and Pipeline Corridor 2 Details.

Project Manager Chustz noted the project would probably start in the first or second quarter of 2023, depending on permitting and other factors.

B. Exotic Vegetation

For single family homes
MRTF Member Larkin included steering document #3 and noted her group was working on the Google Earth visual record. Chair Johnson questioned whether the vegetation ordinance should be completed before moving forward with some items. MRTF Member Larkin replied affirmatively. She shared a vegetation handout from the University of Florida and a native landscaping brochure. She suggested adding the flyers to the website and in the lobby. MRTF Member Larkin and her group reviewed several ordinances from around the area and developed a handout with 18 suggestions. The first three priorities included adding enforcement and penalties, creating one list of vegetation to avoid and landscaping standards for new construction. She reviewed other points, including clarifying definitions, changing 50-foot buffers to percentages due to lot sizes and updating 1978 photos of the south end.

Discussion was held regarding enforcement. Project Manager Chustz suggested creating an ordinance for single-family homeowners. Creating a fluid list of invasives and exotic plants was discussed. Consensus was reached to table the discussion for the next meeting.

C. Dark Skies

Chair Johnson discussed whether lighting standards were being followed with the town construction projects. Liaison Veach commented that he would mention their concerns at the next Town Council meeting.

D. Rental Boat Propeller Protectors

MRTF Member Howell described his draft ordinance and provided background information from several sources. He discussed the ineffectiveness of education. He suggested that all rental boats with an exposed propeller be required to have a propeller guard. He noted the guards were not inexpensive, but they cut down on propeller wear and tear. MRTF Member Howell stated that they were down to about 5%-10% of seagrass left and approximately 1,000 manatees lost their lives this year.

MRTF Member Fossum felt that the majority of the destruction was from dolphin and other tour boats. MRTF Member Howell indicated that the guards did not impede the performance of rental boats. He stated the guards ranged from \$150 and up. The company he spoke to quoted \$540.00 each for a fleet of 5 boats with a 75 hp motor. MRTF Member Fossum noted installation took over an hour and the boat had to be pulled out of the water. He questioned whether the town could legally regulate rentals. MRTF Member Howell commented that the guard could be maintained while in the water. Enforcement issues were discussed.

MRTF Member Rusk brought up the number of businesses that rented boats. MRTF Member Howell acknowledged that the owners of boat rentals were hesitant to discuss the guards. Chair Johnson suggested researching the laws before the next meeting.

E. Marinas & Boat Pump Outs

MRTF Member Fossum submitted a draft steering document and noted he received additional information not incorporated in the document. Project Manager Chustz forwarded state records on permitted marinas that included links to the latest permits issued. He noted that the Lee County Environmental Lab contained information concerning sampling sites. Chair Johnson questioned whether the marinas could require boaters to use the blue dye in their

holding tanks. Project Manager Chustz questioned how they would enforce using the dye. MRTF Member Howell questioned whether they could ask the marinas to give boaters the tablets to drop in the tanks when rented for five days or longer. MRTF Member Fossum encouraged members to submit input for modifications.

F. Good Citizen Award, aka the "Murphie"

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to nominate Dynamic Pest Control; second by MRTF Member Rusk.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson updated the rotation list for articles next year.

VIII. MEMBERS' ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Johnson brought up an article looking for a site to install a sawfish mural. MRTF Member Rusk questioned whether her supplies were ordered. Project Manager Chustz will research. She stated the pop-up would be at the Shrimp Festival and they wanted a donation of \$200.00, but it was negotiable. She noted she needed volunteers to help her over the two-day event. Liaison Veach commented they used to enter a float in the parade. Consensus was reached to enter the parade next March.

MRTF Member Larkin brought up installing cigarette canisters at Times Square.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comment.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Remove renourishment and add the parade.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Adopted 12-8-21 with/without changes. Motion by Mary Rose Spalletta
(DATE)

Vote: 7-0 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

• End of document * As amended