

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

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz

Council Liaison: Bill Veach

IV. APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – November 10, 2021

Clarification: Chair Johnson questioned whether the invasive vegetation ordinance should be completed before moving forward with ~~some items~~ activities such as removing invasives. (Discussion was held regarding the context of the conversation.)

MOTION: MRTF Member Spalletta moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by MRTF Member DeGaetano.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Dark Skies

Chair Johnson referred to page 2 of the street lighting plans and noted the yellow roadways were designated as narrow-band amber LED lighting for 12 months a year. He indicated Bayside Park would have dual lights installed. He discussed causing eye confusion with

the different lights and noted it was a public safety issue. Chair Johnson stated that the plan should not have been approved because it did not comply with the municipal lighting ordinance for parks. He indicated that plans for Bayside Park had been approved. Liaison Veach stated that the Town Manager would contact Chair Johnson and the lighting consultant to schedule a meeting.

Chair Johnson reviewed the lighting diagram for Bayside Park and noted that uplights were not compliant with the municipal lighting ordinance. He discussed the photometric analysis on page 5.

MOTION: MRTF Member Spalletta moved to urge Town Council to take any actions necessary to ensure that all lighting projects undertaken by the Town of Fort Myers Beach within the boundaries of the Town of Fort Myers Beach are constructed and maintained in compliance with the Town lighting ordinance and wildlife-safe best practices; second by MRTF Member Rusk.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to recommend:

- For pedestrian and vehicular safety, please pursue a single, consistent outdoor light color for walkways, crosswalks and roadways throughout the entire downtown commercial district.
- Comply with the FDOT/FWC Wildlife Area of Concern and install FDOT certified narrow band amber roadway lighting as has been selected for:
 - The Estero Blvd roadway lighting project
 - The 5th St and San Carlos signal light project
 - The County Crescent St and Estero Blvd signal project
 - The Crescent St and numbered streets sidewalk and roadway lighting project
 - The State base of bridge project including signal light
 - The Matanzas Pass bridge project
- Comply with the Town of Fort Myers Beach municipal lighting ordinance – Division 20 Lighting Standards with the purpose “to curtail and reverse the degradation of the night-time visual environment by minimizing light pollution, glare, and light trespass” and provide the residents of Fort Myers Beach with a good example of responsible outdoor lighting.
- Specifically
 - Use full cut off and shielded fixtures
 - Stay within the safe illumination levels stated in the town municipal lighting ordinance
 - Eliminate the use of up lighting to prevent glare and aid in the conservation of wildlife and protect our dark skies.
- Comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act by installing FWC certified wildlife lighting in Times Square and Old San Carlos Blvd as an example to residents and merchants of responsible stewardship of our environment while avoiding the liability associated with the “take” of endangered species.
- Provide a year around lighting solution that complies with all governing bodies, while providing a safe, enjoyable environment that supports local merchants without extinguishing lighting for half the year.

- Position the Town of Fort Myers Beach to attract the ever-increasing eco-minded generation of tourists and reinforce its brand identity as a conservation-oriented destination, second by MRTF Member Rusk.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

B. Exotic Vegetation

MRTF Member Larkin reviewed enforcement, adding a link to a list of invasive plants from the State of Florida and landscaping standards for new construction, including an irrigation landscaping design drawn to scale. MRTF Member Rusk discussed the negative aspects of artificial turf.

MRTF Member Larkin added definitions to terms in the ordinance for clarification. She provided two examples of user-friendly language of why the open space buffer and landscape ordinance existed. She brought up adjusting the 50-foot buffer requirement and Liaison Veach commented that Town Council was evaluating the issue. Impervious and pervious surfaces were discussed.

MRTF Member Larkin reviewed the table of buffer requirements. She suggested adding an appendix of trees and adding Director or designee. A discussion was held regarding the permitting process for installing landscaping after a hurricane and adding a vegetation protection removal section to the landscaping standards, similar to Article 5.

Liaison Veach questioned limiting the amount of rock allowed for landscape. The language in number 10 was modified.

MOTION: MRTF Member Larkin moved to propose the edited suggestions to Town Council for their approval; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

C. Arbor Day Tree Event

Project Manager Chustz reviewed the history of the event. He mentioned trees recommended by local native landscapers. Discussion was held regarding species, height, cost, budget, who qualified, pre-ordering trees, delivery and growth rate.

D. Rental Boat Propeller Protectors

Liaison Veach revealed that the Town Council was discussing the item.

E. Marinas & Boat Pump Outs

Liaison Veach stated that Town Council was requesting extra boat patrols from the Sheriff's Department. MRTF Member Fossum noted that the Coast Guard was the only entity that could board a boat without permission. He added there was an array of educational materials that could be distributed. Discussion was held regarding the logistics of pump-out requests. Liaison Veach suggested that Chair Johnson contact Chair Light of the Anchorage Advisory Committee (AAC).

MOTION: MRTF Member Fossum moved to recommend that the pump-out out have better

signage to help encourage people to use the pump-out services; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

F. Good Citizen Award, aka the "Murphie"

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to nominate MRTF Member Spalletta's sand dollar event; second by MRTF Member Rusk.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. MEMBERS' ITEMS AND REPORTS

MRTF Member questioned whether The Observer had an archive of MRTF articles. MRTF Member Larkin suggested checking with the library.

MRTF Member Howell questioned how wildlife (sand dollars and sea stars) was affected by beach renourishment. Project Manager Chustz noted he would get back to him.

MRTF Member Spalletta suggested the Town invest in a motorized wheelchair. She pointed out that some people had difficulty understanding bird signs on the beach. Liaison Veach noted that signs on sand bars would have to be moved constantly. MRTF Member Spalletta indicated that people were bringing their dogs into the Critical Wildlife area and questioned the current signage. Project Manager Chustz replied that the FWC (Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission) was aware of the situation and planning an educational campaign soon. MRTF Member Spalletta brought up people using a board to transport their beach supplies on the sand. Project Manager Chustz noted it was not prohibited, but he would look into it.

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to discuss the installation of cigarette disposal receptacles in Times Square with the Town Council; second by MRTF Member Howell.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson indicated that he would contact the new store owners next to S.O.B. about installing a mural on their building. He noted they were on track with the parade float.

MRTF Member Rusk suggested that they change the name of their committee to Estero Island Environmental Resource Task Force or FMB Environmental Resource Task Force to reflect their mission clearly. Liaison Veach stated that MRTF was named by Mr. Mullholland, who formed the committee. He suggested that they change the language in the forming ordinance. MRTF Member Rusk indicated she needed to order supplies for the Arbor Day event.

MRTF Member Rusk stated that the Times Square plans included adding 60 coconut palms. Liaison Veach indicated that Vice Mayor Hosafros requested that coconut palms not be used in the design.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comment.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

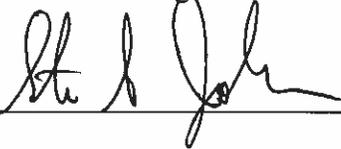
Remove prop guards and Arbor Tree event. Add MRTF forming ordinance and shrimp parade.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: MRTF Member Fossum moved to adjourn; second by MRTF Member Spalletta.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Adopted 1/12/22 with/without changes. Motion by Mary Rose Spalletta
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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