

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

Thursday, March 24, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Hill, Betty Simpson, Cheri Smith, Ceel Spuhler, Ellen Vaughan and Becky Werner.

Excused: Lorrie Wolf.

Historical Advisor: Bill Grace

Town Staff: Cultural Parks & Recreation Director Alison Giesen

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 28, 2021

Chair Hill clarified that the post office box would be used by the Friends of Bay Oaks.

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anis H. researched backless benches for the Mound House and reported that concrete benches would have to be installed on concrete and were expensive. She suggested plastic benches that looked like wood and were made out of recycled materials. The benches could be engraved on both sides and came in three different sizes. She described in-ground mounting and noted a mounting kit came with the bench.

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE MOUND HOUSE

Chair Hill noted the plan was updated for March 2022. Director Giesen stated that she was excited regarding the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) process and would submit the grant in the summer. She added that the State Division of Cultural Resources grant applications would open

on April 1, 2022. She indicated that a volunteer from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) was helping with kayak tours. She reviewed stabilizing the exhibit in the fall and noted she would work with the Seminole tribe regarding publicity. Discussion was held regarding how the Seminole tribe was involved with the stabilization project. Director Giesen reviewed the National Historic Landmark process.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE NEWTON BEACH PARK

CELCAB Member Vaughan suggested installing a metal roof on the cottage, but Chair Hill indicated the cottage had historical significance requirements and the building could not be altered from its original state. Chair Hill suggested revisiting the original arched sign and requesting that Town Council exempt Newton Beach Park from the Town's sign ordinance. Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of an exemption and exploring potential avenues to move forward.

VIII. PROPOSED SWING FOR NEWTON BEACH PARK

Liaison Atterholt shared a picture of a swing set and discussed the budget, potential grants and sponsorship opportunities. Chair Hill explained how municipalities commissioned public art. Liaison Atterholt added that the swings cost approximately \$5,000.00 each.

MOTION: Chair Hill moved to continue to investigate two proposed swing sets at \$5,000 each with the additional cost to install; second by CELCAB Member Smith.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Review of Mound House Fees – proposed for increase

Director Giesen reported that there had not been an increase in programs or admissions in seven years. She proposed increasing the adult membership only and programs by \$5.00. Chair Hill agreed with the increase. Consensus was reached to recommend an increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Town Manager Hernstadt stated that Town Council would have to approve the fee increase and indicated it would be appropriate to include the request as an add-on for the next fiscal year.

MOTION: CELCAB Member Werner moved to increase the adult admission fee from \$10 to \$15, children under five would be free, the students would remain the same, kayak fees would go to \$50 for non-members, family kayak fees would be \$30, member's kayak fees \$20 and the town residents would remain at \$5; second by CELCAB Member Vaughan.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Director Giesen stated that Adam's article was published in the Legacy magazine.

X. FRIENDS OF MOUND HOUSE REPORT

A. Artful Intersection 3.0 Fundraiser

CELCAB Member Vaughan displayed posters for the fundraiser and noted the event would be at the Mound House on April 8 at 7:00 p.m. She indicated the art for auction would be on display, a caterer would provide hors d'oeuvres and alcohol would be provided by CELCAB Member Vaughan and Pat. She commented the printed catalog would be available very soon. Tickets were available in-person, at the museum store and online. She described some of the art available for the live auction.

B. Mound House Benches

CELCAB Member Vaughan hoped that one bench would be available for the auction. Chair Hill explained why concrete benches were first envisioned for the area. She discussed the cost of ongoing maintenance and suggested making a cost comparison between concrete and simulated wood. Director Giesen stated that they discussed installing eight benches around the property. Discussion was held regarding bidding on a location rather than the design of the bench. Historic Advisor Grace felt that a bench needed to be selected before offering one for auction. Consensus was reached to finalize a design before offering a bench for auction.

The Friends requested that CELCAB prioritize making decisions concerning benches so they could be offered at the 2023 auction. Discussion was held regarding methods for allocating the benches. Historic Advisor Grace stated that they had been discussing benches for 20 years and suggested they decide on a simple bench rather than something grand. Chair Hill reiterated that more research was needed to make an informed decision. Director Giesen suggested that they narrow their focus and create guidelines so she could research options. Developing a bench campaign rather than offering them at auction was discussed.

XI. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

CELCAB Member Vaughan stated that the Friends of the Mound House annual meeting was on March 29, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. at the Mound House, and the topic was Adam's article. She reported that Mike Hughes would continue to be the attorney of record for the Friends.

CELCAB Member Spuhler commented that CELCAB was one of the most wonderful things she had been a part of.

CELCAB Member Smith questioned whether the video would always be on a 15-minute schedule. Director Giesen replied affirmatively.

CELCAB Member Simpson reported that CELCAB Member Wolf was out of the hospital and in rehab after back surgery.

Liaison Atterholt credited Director Giesen for the Mound House reference by the Tourist Development Council (TDC).

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XIII. FUTURE MEETING DATE – May 26, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURN

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Adopted 5/26/2022 with/without changes. Motion by Betty Simpson
(DATE)

Vote: UNANIMOUS Signature: Balboa Hill

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