

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

Thursday, May 26, 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: Bill Grace and Lorrie Wolf.

Town Staff: Cultural Parks & Recreation Director Alison Giesen

IV. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2022

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment – no public comment.

VI. Discussion of Merging CELCAB, BORCAB and CRAB

CELCAB Member Simpson questioned the push for merging in light of the Bay Oaks project. She did not want Bay Oaks to lose focus and wondered what CELCAB would look like after a merge. She mentioned that 14 members on one committee would be out of the question. She questioned whether they would have discussed merging when CELCAB was in the middle of the Mound House project and she wondered about the future of the Friends groups.

CELCAB Member Smith did not feel up to speed on BORCAB and did not want to be thrown into an unfamiliar situation. She suggested holding off discussions for a year so CELCAB could attend some BORCAB meetings. She would appreciate more thought before making a decision.

CELCAB Member Spuhler commented that merging the groups was too diversified and questioned how they would manage. She could not think of one good reason for merging committees

CELCAB Member Werner noted that CELCAB had less work to do with Director Giesen at the helm and wondered whether combining the committees would help Director Giesen. She mentioned the large committee, starting over and losing the focus on Bay Oaks. She questioned why CRAB had disappeared.

CELCAB Member Vaughan noted that BORCAB had a lot on its plate and felt that merging would dilute their efforts. She suggested that they discuss a merge once BORCAB projects were complete or nearly complete. She questioned the composition, charter and dividing duties and she wondered what the motivation was for Town Council to move in that direction.

Director Giesen suggested that CELCAB Members review the last Town Council meeting on May 16 for individual opinions.

Chair Hill explained that the motivation was to streamline Director Giesen's decision-making process with BORCAB and CELCAB regarding programming and events to ensure they complemented each other rather than competed against each other. Coordinating efforts with both groups was the intent and she indicated that 90% of the Bay Oaks decisions were complete.

Discussion was held regarding creating Friends groups for BORCAB and Newton Park.

Director Giesen noted that draft Ordinance 22-10 contained information regarding the final committee. CELCAB Member Wolf submitted her thoughts to Director Giesen.

CELCAB Member Werner discussed coordination issues.

VII. Joint Discussion with BORCAB About Merging

BORCAB Members Bruce Butcher and Karen Woodson and Council liaison Dan Allers were present. BORCAB Member Woodson described challenges with recreating the Friends of Bay Oaks.

Chair Hill discussed the turbulent history of CELCAB and the Mound House due to the lack of continuity with purpose, division and personnel turnover.

BORCAB Member Butcher agreed that it made sense since Director Giesen was responsible for BORCAB and CELCAB. He noted that BORCAB needed oversight as they moved forward with the project.

Liaison Allers commented that since BORCAB and CELCAB were under the same umbrella, it was practical to combine committees and prevent entities from competing with programming events.

CELCAB Member Smith was hurt and it felt like a done deal. She was not opposed to the idea but suggested they hold off for a year.

CELCAB Member Werner agreed with CELCAB Member Smith regarding holding off making a decision.

CELCAB Member Spuhler questioned why it came up at all. Liaison Allers replied that a member of the Town Council brought up the idea.

CELCAB Member Smith was not opposed to merging committees, but she requested that they hold off on making a decision.

BORCAB Member Butcher understood the logistics but did not see any overlap between the strategic plans for BORCAB and CELCAB. He noted he did not have any interest in the Mound House and felt the committees should remain separate.

BORCAB Member Woodson questioned how Bayside Park and CRAB fit into the scheme. Director Giesen was not sure. Liaison Allers thought Bayside Park would work under BORCAB. Director Giesen noted that she supported whatever BORCAB and CELCAB decided.

Discussion was held regarding combining different entities.

BORCAB Member Guidry sent her input and noted she was okay with a merger as long as all committee members from both committees were included.

VIII. Motion From CELCAB on the Recommendations for Merging the Advisory Board Committees

MOTION: CELCAB Member Werner moved to recommend to the Town Council to table the consideration of the merger of BORCAB, CELCAB and CRAB until June of 2023; second by CELCAB Member Spuhler.

Discussion was held regarding the legality of a motion from BORCAB Members.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Butcher moved to revisit the decision to combine BORCAB, CELCAB and CRAB until June of 2023; second by BORCAB Member Simpson. BORCAB Member Woodson discussed her reason for postponing the decision. BORCAB Member Butcher did not think a committee of 11 people would work but agreed to amend his motion to add a time limit.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

CELCAB Member Vaughan suggested holding joint meetings with BORCAB and CELCAB to discuss the most efficient way to merge committees. CELCAB Member Smith left the meeting.

IX. Appoint Someone to Present Recommendations at the Town Council Meeting on Monday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m.

CELCAB Member Vaughan volunteered to present their vote to Town Council on June 6. BORCAB Members Butcher and Woodson and Council liaison Allers left the meeting.

X. Honoring Ann and Dan Hughes

Director Giesen noted that Mayor Murphy suggested that the shell driveway around the Mound House be named Ann and Dan Hughes Lane. Consensus was held to table the discussion.

XI. Newton Beach Park Directional Signage – tabled.

XII. Director's Report

A. Donations from Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation and Kiwanis Club

The Community Foundation donated \$1,000.00 and the Kiwanis donated \$500.00 for scholarships.

B. Summer Lecture Series

Programs continued in July, August and September.

C. Certified Wildlife Habitat (National Wildlife Federation and Florida Wildlife Federation)

Director Giesen indicated that Yvette received recognition and certification and Adam received a scholarship to attend the American Alliance for Museums conference in Boston. Director Giesen submitted her application to participate in the Leadership meeting in October.

Director Giesen questioned whether CELCAB had projects to include in the budget.

MOTION: CELCAB Member Werner moved to appropriate money in the CELCAB budget to contract with a facilitator to discuss complications and possibilities with mergers between CELCAB, BORCAB and CRAB; second by Chair Hill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Friends of Mound House Report

CELCAB Member Vaughan reported that the Artful Intersection 3.0 fundraiser grossed more than \$35,000.00. She will share the breakdown at their next meeting. Director Giesen stated that the annual calendar was being updated for completion by October 1, 2022.

XIV. Board Member Items and Reports

CELCAB Member Spuhler questioned whether they could distribute Mound House brochures to boat tour operators. Director Giesen replied affirmatively. CELCAB Member Spuhler tendered and read her resignation letter and thanked CELCAB Members. CELCAB Member Vaughan noted a strong business interest in a water transport vehicle. No items from other members.

XV. Public Comment – no public comment.

XVI. Future Meeting Date – September 22, 2022

XVII. Adjourn

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Adopted 6-24-22 with/without changes. Motion by HILL
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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