

MINUTES
Town of Fort Myers Beach
Cultural and Environmental Learning
Center Advisory Board "CELCAB"
Mound House - 451 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Thursday, May 25, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Barbara Anderson Hill, Betty Simpson, Cheri Smith, Ellen Vaughan, Becky Werner and Lorrie Wolf.

Excused: Kerrie Henderson

Town Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge

Town Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 27, 2023

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joy Sullivan expressed interest in the future of Newton Park. She suggested surveying the public regarding what they wanted to see at the park.

V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Hauge reported that 12 people participated in the lecture series last year and 1,214 people have visited the Mound House. He noted that advisory committees would start holding meetings at the Mound House. CELCAB Member Warner questioned whether they should change the date of their meetings due to the conflict with the museum and Director Hauge replied affirmatively.

Museum Educator Adam Knight described the meeting space and noted it was the orientation gallery and part of the 1921 character of the original building.

Director Hauge listed upcoming events and meetings at the Mound House. The Bay Oaks summer camp would be an adventure/environmental program at the Mound House.

Director Hauge noted the lighting should be complete within two weeks and LED strips would be installed for the floor lighting. The roofing was under contract, the lift station was repaired yesterday and lumber ties would be added to the driveway to prevent future washout.

The lecture series was scheduled for the end of the year and information was on the website. Two spots were left for the Kayack tour on Saturday. ABC 7 will feature the Mound House on June 6, 2023. He described outreach opportunities at past and future events to promote the Mound House. Newton Beach Park was on hold until the sand was removed. The shade structures and restrooms will be replaced or repaired. Discussion was held regarding opportunities to obtain funds to rebuild a structure and potential uses for the property. CELCAB Member Werner commented that they had to check what was required for the property. Chair Hill replied that it was meant to be a passive educational experience and that a facility had to be on the property. The beach walks and lectures would continue. CELCAB Member Smith added that some of the historic requirements in the Florida Community Trust Agreement were in place because the house was historical, but since the house was gone, the agreement needed to be reviewed. Director Hague will send the document to the town attorney to determine the town's obligations. Chair Hill suggested that staff communicate with the Florida Community Trust regarding requirements post-Ian. CELCAB Member Vaughan suggested building an open-air pavilion. Director Hauge will distribute a list of upcoming lectures to CELCAB members and include his report in the agenda packet.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Mound House Events – see above.
- B. Strategic Plan

Chair Hill agreed with CELCAB Member Vaughan regarding holding a workshop with Council to review the Strategic Plan. She added that funds were available last year to hire a facilitator to reevaluate and update the Strategic Plans for Newton Beach Park and the Mound House. Director Hague will forward an organizational chart of his staff and commented that it was a fluid situation due to the budget and open positions.

Chair Hill stated they had to evaluate CELCAB's mission to ensure they have a better understanding of their responsibilities.

Liaison Atterholt indicated that a private group was seriously considering a water passenger ferry service for the island based on San Carlos Island. He described opportunities up and down the beach, including the bay and noted that it was still a work in progress. Chair Hill mentioned partnering up with a marina. Discussion was held regarding offering Mound Key tours regularly.

Chair Hill suggested meeting with the town council before hiring a facilitator. Director Hauge will work on scheduling a date for a joint session. He noted that he would check with Tidal Basin regarding FEMA reimbursement for the destroyed A/V equipment.

VII. FRIENDS OF MOUND HOUSE REPORT

CELCAB Member Vaughan reported that the Friends would be part of hosting for the Island Hoppers. She described a challenge to the not-for-profit organizations to help bring people to the town. She indicated that the Kings donated antique items for their next auction, which would likely be in 2024. She stated that the Friends opened a short-term CD at 4% interest and they wrote a check to the Mound House for \$10,000.00 to help purchase destroyed inventory. CELCAB Member Vaughan said she would present the check to the town council.

