

MINUTES
Town of Fort Myers Beach
Cultural and Environmental Learning
Center Advisory Board “CELCAB”
Mound House - 451 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, June 21, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Chair Hill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Town Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 25, 2023

Adam Knight is the Museum Manager, not Educator. The museum roofing was under contract, the lift station was repaired yesterday and lumber ties would be added to the driveway to prevent future washout. Correct the spelling of kayak in the second sentence on page two.

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Rusk submitted the following email to be read during the meeting.

1, MERTF agreed to have the Pop-ups for the camp. Dates are June 28th and July 19th we'd like to have one at Connecticut on beach and the other at Mound. Just need to know which locations work for dates.

2, I watched your last meeting and I have a suggestion with getting input from community on rebuild.

Request Jenny Dexter to develop a QR Code that links to a BORCAB-CELCAB comment page with a check mark list of ideas such as what community would like to see at B.O. such as spin, pickle, music, movie nights Etc....this will maybe give you an idea of what people are wanting and needing.

Once you have the QR Code, print an 8x11 poster and I'll put it in a sign holder. I have a sign/QR for mound.

MERTF's Pop-up will be setting up in Times Square for many of the Saturday Farmers Markets and we will promote and ask for people to go to link. Hope this helps? Thank you BORCAB for all you're doing for our community!!

V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Hauge shared a photo of the new LED bottom lights in the underground museum and he noted that LED lights would be installed above the mural. People would be allowed to visit the underground exhibit as soon as the emergency lights were repaired. The mini-split AC unit was installed, but an electrician must return to connect the unit now that there is power. Chair Hill questioned the aesthetics of the wood that will be used to mount the lights above the mural. Director Hauge described the installation and noted that the mural was in great shape.

Discussion was held regarding Hurricane Ian and the steps that should be taken before the next storm. Manager Knight stated that all the collections were taken to an offsite climate-controlled storage facility after the hurricane. Director Hauge and Manager Knight were researching protective material for the archives and would eventually inventory all items.

Dead foliage and landscaping were removed per the town's ordinance and timbers for the parking would be replaced. Landscape timbers along the shell drive would be reinstalled. Crowder Roofing did a site visit and will start the partial re-roofing soon.

ABC7 interviewed Manager Knight and Director Hauge will provide a link to the interview. Manager Knight also interviewed with Kingship Productions, which should air in the fall. Manager Knight was also regularly updating social media.

Director Hauge reported that 441 people were on the grounds in May, 25 FGCU (Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students took tours and 12 people as members of group tours. There were eight kayak tours, a full shell mound tour and four of the lecture series. The latest lecture series by Manager Knight included 67 total participants, with approximately 50 in person and the rest via ZOOM. The next lecture will be on July 25, 2023, with the Edison Ford curator as the speaker.

Director Hauge noted that advisory committees held meetings at the Mound House and counted as visitors.

Director Hauge indicated that FEMA conducted an assessment of the Mound House. Chair Hill revealed that Director Hauge wrote a TDC grant for \$25,000.00 to help the Friends.

Summer camp was doing very well and the staff was taking the children on field trips and to the library. Director Hauge praised the staff's patience and noted that more people would be hired in the future.

Chair Hill questioned the status of the joint meeting with the Town Council and Director Hauge replied that it would be sometime after July and that he would keep CELCAB posted.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Newton Strategic Plan

Director Hauge sent a message to the Florida Communities Trust but has not heard back. Chair Hill noted they could address the advantage and disadvantages of rebuilding and questioned whether rebuilding would be feasible. Director Hauge indicated it would be an educational park. CELCAB Member Smith commented that many people preferred a park of some sort. Director Hauge added that Town Council was discussing creating pocket parks.

Director Hauge indicated that the Mound House directional road signs would be installed on Estero Blvd.

B. Review of Florida Trust Grant – Director Hauge will contact them again.

VII. FRIENDS OF MOUND HOUSE REPORT

CELCAB Member Simpson noted most of the meeting was taken up with Pat McKeown describing a Mound House website and the Florida Weekly digital ad program. An ad for \$220.00 per week was discussed. They agreed that a website was needed and Mr. McKeown was working on that with staff. The Friends were hosting the Island Hopper event.

Chair Hill questioned who donated the antique items. CELCAB Member Smith responded that it was Alex King. Chair Hill clarified that the museum store inventory had to be replaced and refreshed due to Hurricane Ian.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

CELCAB Member Wolf suggested that everyone videotape the contents of their homes before the next storm. Director Hauge stated that the Mound House inventory included pictures and model numbers. CELCAB Member Werner stated that she and Susan Grace were working on a remembrance project for Bill Grace. She questioned whether they wanted to implement a fee for group tours. CELCAB Member Smith thanked Manager Knight for bringing people to the Mound House. She said she would not be in town in August and September but would participate via phone. Chair Hill questioned whether voting was allowed via phone or ZOOM. Director Hauge will check the rules. CELCAB Member Simpson thanked Manager Knight for his Facebook activity and Karina for her hard work.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – August 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Adopted _____ with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

Barbara Hill
8/16/23

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