

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Town Hall – Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Cheryl Clark, Cristina Denegre, Greg Holmes, Glen Thompson, Bill Veach, and Keri Weeg.
Staff present: Keith Laakkonen
Council Liaison: Dan Andre

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 11, 2015

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to approve the minutes; second by Ms. Andre.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. NEW ITEMS

No new items.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beachscape Program (Veach)

Chair Veach reported that he would return to Council for direction.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Mr. Laakkonen indicated the t-shirts should arrive within a week. Ms. Andre shared a letter she drafted to the editor of the Island Sand Paper. MRTF members provided suggestions and comments. Ms. Weeg suggested Ms. Andre send it as an opinion editorial instead of a letter to the editor. Mr. Andre reported that the training sessions were successful.

C. Community Outreach/MRTF Event (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg reported that Bonnie does not have an event scheduled in July, so MRTF would have to pull the special event permit. Consensus was reached to hold the event

on July 11, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Discussion was held concerning a chef competition with sustainable ingredients. Chair Veach indicated he would organize the competition and reach out to the singer/songwriters. MRTF members will decide on a name for the event at a later date. Ms. Andre will contact the Coast Guard about attending.

D. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

Ongoing. Ms. Weeg indicated that Mr. Laakkonen's bird story would be published in the Sand Line.

E. FAQs (Weeg)

Mr. Laakkonen reported that he distributed laminated FAQs to beach staff.

F. Informational Sticker for Rental Boats (Clark)

Ongoing.

G. Brochure Distribution (all)

Ongoing.

H. Canals (Thompson)

Mr. Thompson indicated that the proposal from Hans Wilson included a workshop similar to what was done 12 years earlier. Mr. Laakkonen replied that no one could agree on what the problem was, so a workshop would help the community identify issues. He noted that Mr. Wilson would provide a scope of work and then it would go to Council for direction. Mr. Thompson stated that the main two problems were navigation and water quality. Discussion was held concerning contents of the workshop. Mr. Laakkonen remarked that he would present the results of the scope to MRFT next month.

I. Investigate Clean Beach Certifications (Veach)

Mr. Veach reported that he received the qualifications for resort and rural beaches. He revealed the first certification fee was \$3,700 per year, but he would work with Nancy McPhee regarding the possibility of using bed tax dollars to cover the fee.

J. Branding for Nature/Ecotourism (Veach)

Bird & nature identification panel for beach accesses - he contacted Dawn Witherton regarding the identification poster and she provided quotes. Chair Veach noted that if they move forward with the poster they would have to get multiple quotes. Mr. Laakkonen indicated that TDC funds might be available.

Education panels for parks - ongoing.

Statues for Newton Park, Mound House, & Crescent Beach - ongoing.

K. Mulholland Award (all)

Ongoing.

L. Local Water Quality Initiates - Rain Gardening Promotion (Weeg)

Ongoing.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Veach asked Ms. Weeg if CRAB would create a sign to encourage liveboards to pump-out waste. Ms. Clark volunteered to assist Ms. Weeg.

Ms. Andre read a Facebook post concerning waste at the Lani Kai. Mr. Laakkonen remarked that once he received the pictures, he would talk to the offenders.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Andre stated that the results of the Island aging would be presented to Council on March 16, 2015.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Andre.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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