

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Newton Park
4650 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Cheryl Clark, Greg Holmes and Bill Veach.

Excused: Cristina Denegre, Glen Thompson and Keri Weeg.

Staff present: Keith Laakkonen

Council Liaison: Dan Andre

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 10, 2015

MOTION: Mr. Veach moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by Ms. Andre.

Council liaison Andre was not present at the meeting.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VI. NEW ITEMS

No new items.

VII. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Beachscape Program (Veach)

On hold.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ms. Andre brought up utilizing identification badges instead of t-shirts. Mr. Laakkonen noted that only code enforcement officers and inspectors used ID badges. Discussion was held concerning vehicles on the beach at Red Coconut. Mr. Holmes suggested arm bands for volunteers and Mr. Laakkonen suggested redesigning the t-shirts. Ms. Andre

mentioned safety vests as an option. She indicated that she would speak to Ms. O'Riley in Public Works. Consensus was reached to research safety vests.

Ms. Clark noted that Jeremy Russo from Gardner, Inc. stated that his group was interested in sending a crew to clean up the beach on Friday, July 17, 2015. Mr. Russo indicated that he would like to speak with Ms. Andre concerning the Adopt a Beach program. Ms. Andre stated that she would contact him.

C. Community Outreach/MRTF Event (Weeg)

On hold. Ms. Clark invited MRTF to join her on July 13th and 15th to remove crab traps and other debris.

D. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

Chair Veach remarked that his article on Black Skimmers was being reviewed.

E. FAQs (Weeg)

Ongoing.

F. Brochure Distribution (All)

Brochures are stored off Island until construction is completed.

G. Canals (Thompson)

On hold.

H. Branding for Nature/Ecotourism (Veach)

Bird & Nature Education Panel and Educational Brochure, NPS Style

Chair Veach stated that he was focused on creating an identification chart and including the chart in the brochure. He met with Nancy MacPhee from the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and she indicated that funds would be available for graphics if the Public Works Director requested it. Ms. Clark distributed photos and information regarding habitats on the bay. Discussion was held concerning creating the brochure.

I. Vehicles on Beach

Chair Veach noted that Town Council charged MRTF with reviewing the draft ordinance. He suggested that the Town purchase a couple of motorized beach wheelchairs and offer them free of charge during normal hours of operation. Chair Veach questioned Ms. MacPhee regarding utilizing TDC funds to purchase motorized wheelchairs and she replied that she would check with the county attorneys. Discussion was held concerning space to stage the wheelchairs, who would be responsible for the operation, enforcement issues, ADA requirements, restrictions, beachfront property owners' rights and grandfathering the private cart. Mr. Laakkonen recommended that MRTF provide options to Council and request a joint meeting for further discussion.

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

Ms. Clark discussed a rain garden at the Chapel by the Sea.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Clark reviewed wording for the sign at the dinghy dock and she referred to a brochure with pertinent information for liveaboards. Chair Veach discussed installing a sign regarding pump-outs for boaters outside the Mooring Field.

Mr. Laakkonen commented that he would miss MRTF and he thanked them for their support and hard work.

Chair Veach met with a gentleman from the Clean Beach Coalition concerning certification. He thanked Mr. Laakkonen for his knowledge and he appreciated his passion for the birds and the beach environment.

Chair Veach mentioned that it was time for some members to renew their membership.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Holmes moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Andre.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Adopted 10/15/15 with/without changes. Motion by Keri Weeg
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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