

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MYERS BEACH**  
**MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE**  
Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Greg Holmes, Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta, Bill Veach and Keri Weeg.  
Staff present: Rae Blake  
Council Liaison: Vice Mayor Andre

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 16, 2015**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.**

**V. CURRENT ITEMS**

A. Meeting with Tom Torgerson

Mr. Torgerson informed MRTF that a detailed presentation would be held the following evening, but he would provide a brief synopsis. He described creating high density use without disturbing turtles and other wildlife. He discussed the seawall or coastal protection system and where it would be located, beach renourishment, invisibility of the protective hardened structure, the 50% rule, nine foot elevation, building a boardwalk on the landward side and flooding and floodwater within the system. He has been collaborating with Eve Haverfield regarding lighting during turtle nesting season. Mr. Torgerson relayed how he made his way to Fort Myers Beach from Minnesota. He addressed how people would access the beach with the creation of a causeway and elevators. He discussed keeping the small town feeling, view corridors, architecture, adding variety and diversity to the region and creating unique indoor and outdoor experiences. He talked about A and V zoning, Lynn Hall Park, the downtown commercial core, the Old San Carlos area and paring down the parking garage. Discussion was held regarding the length of the seawall, lighting and beach renourishment.

B. Rain Gardens (Weeg)

Chair Veach discussed fertilized water flowing into the stormwater system and charging



Joe Stockton, resident, asked MRTF to be objective and scientific regarding the Grand Resorts project and to keep their focus on protecting the environment. He cautioned against looking at the personality, character and promises of anyone involved in the project.

Joanne Shamp, resident, asked MRTF to consider the possible new furniture regulations and sand compacting when addressing beach plantings.

Tom Babcock, resident, stated that he did not think the Town intended to do anything until there was an application by the developer of the Grand Resorts project. He clarified that he thought their intent was to change the zoning from a V zone to an A zone. He stated that if it became an A zone, the 50% rule would still apply; a non-conforming property will still fall under the 50% rule.

Elizabeth D'Onofrio-Halladay, member of Community Resource Advisory Board (CRAB), commented that she was looking forward to seeing changes made by the Grand Resort developers. She remarked that the proposed parking in the garage did not seem like a lot for the general public. She commented on the impact chairs made on the sand, green resorts, dredging and beach erosion.

Bruce Butcher, resident, questioned whether Styrofoam was allowed on the beach. Ms. Blake replied in the affirmative. He discussed compacting sand on the beach and he questioned the number of fines issued regarding dogs off leash. Chair Veach did not know the number. Mr. Butcher thought it would be useful to publish how many people were fined. Ms. Blake noted that the fine levied by the County was closer to \$200.00. Mr. Butcher questioned whether the sand was deeper at Newton Park. Chair Veach replied that he thought it had been stable for the last couple of months.

**VIII. SET AGENDA AND PERMANENT SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Chair Veach moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Adopted 2/10/16 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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