

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

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 17, 2015

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Rain Gardens (Weeg)

Jim Rodwell, resident, reviewed a presentation he attended concerning landscaping naturally hosted by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. He offered to help with native plants for a rain garden. Ms. Weeg remarked that her landlord was willing to create a rain garden at her house. Ms. Blake stated that she would research details regarding calculations for stormwater credits on pervious areas.

B. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ms. Andre revealed that 23 students in the JROTC program from Oasis High School would like to participate in the Adopt a Beach program. She would like to see them take over the area from the Beach Pub north to the Pier. Discussion was held regarding new t-shirts. Ms. Blake suggested going to Council with a plan for funds as opposed to sponsorships from businesses. Ms. Spalletta described the filthy condition of the beach between Junkanoo and Red Coconut. Ms. Andre stated it was private property and a code enforcement issue. Ms. Spalletta stated the area across from the Wyndham was bad and people were building fires at that location. Ms. Andre will contact the school regarding dates for orientation. The next Adopt a Beach get together will be on January 7 or 8, 2016 at the Mango Street Inn.

C. Beachscape Program (Veach) - on hold.

D. Vehicles on the Beach (Veach and Lubig)

Chair Veach remarked that Council rejected their recommendation for motorized beach wheelchairs on the beach due to liability issues. Mr. Lubig revealed that Council decided to allow certain vendors to transport handicapped/disabled people to the beach at no charge. He described regulations. Discussion was held concerning illegal golf carts on the beach.

E. Community Outreach (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg has a meeting scheduled with Bonnie to discuss details and set a date for an event.

F. Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs (Weeg)

FAQs were provided to beach patrol.

G. Newspaper Articles (Veach)

The next article will be published in the January edition of Sand Life.

H. Branding for Nature/Ecotourism (Veach)

To be rolled into a public education category. Ms. Blake and Ms. Weeg will develop a lesson plan to present to local schools.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Weeg noted that Ms. Spalletta suggested inviting Mr. Torgerson to make a presentation to MRTF concerning how the proposed development would affect the beach environment. Ms. Weeg offered to contact him.

Ms. Andre wondered whether it would be worthwhile for MRTF to have a talk with members of beach patrol regarding enforcement issues. Ms. Blake indicated that she would check with Public Works to see about scheduling a meeting.

Chair Veach suggested creating a list of recommendations from an environmental standpoint of what could be done at beach accesses. He mentioned stormwater runoff, opaque walls to shield lights from turtles during season and retaining native vegetation.

Ms. Spalletta mentioned that someone saw a drone scaring birds in the natural wildlife area.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA AND PERMANENT SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to remove FAQs from the agenda; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Consensus was reached to add public education to the agenda. Consensus was reached to schedule future meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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