

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Community Resource Advisory Board (CRAB)
Council Chambers
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Thursday, August 4, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Vice Chair Weeg.
Members present: Corky Condon, Elizabeth D'Onofrio Halladay, Natasha Jamison and Keri Weeg.
Excused: Miffie Greer
Staff: Megan Will
Council Member Liaison: Summer Stockton

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 5, 2016

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. COMMUNITY GARDEN DISCUSSION - Guest Speaker

Jan Etzel from Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Naples, described their community garden situated on 1.5 acres of land. She shared her experiences with organic gardens over the years. She stated that they charged \$15 for the first year and had 12 beds. Ms. Etzel explained why the community aspect did not work, especially when one person went on vacation or when everyone planted the same produce. She explained permaculture, which is a practical approach aimed at creating a sustainable living environment.

She described the Creation Care program affiliated with Methodist Churches and she suggested that CRAB approach the local Methodist Church again.

Ms. Etzel stated that seeds had to be planted the second weekend of October and she described permaculture farming as it applied to their beds. She noted the start-up cost of \$1,000 was spent on black soil; they had the land and the tools. She stated that Home Depot donated tools for free and she obtained a grant to purchase fruit trees. Ms. Etzel addressed creating partnerships with various organizations and liability/insurance issues. She discussed pros and cons of the three properties she viewed. She recommended avoiding wood framed boxes for the beds since they rot in five years. Ms. Jamison noted that traffic would be an issue at any location during season. Ms. Etzel offered to find out who to contact in the area. She suggested setting a goal to be ready

to plant next October. Discussion was held concerning charging people to participate. Ms. Etzel offered her assistance to CRAB and extended an invitation to visit their garden in Naples. She provided talking points for approaching the church.

VI. CRAB MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS - no items or reports.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Berghammer, resident, submitted the name of Ms. Potter who has experience with micro farms and community gardens in Fort Myers. He suggested that the parking lot of the Mound House would be a good location for a garden. He noted that Ms. Potter did use wood for her boxes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Adopted 9/1/14 with/without changes. Motion by Corley Condon
(DATE)

Vote: unanimous Signature: Miffie Greer

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