

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

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tree Andre, Greg Holmes, Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Absent: Keri Weeg - stuck in traffic.

Staff present: Rae Blake

Council Liaison: Vice Mayor Andre

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 10, 2016

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. MRTF Recommendations to Council (All)

Chair Veach stated the two biggest obstacles with the Grand Resorts project were turtles and the seawall. He read a draft recommendation from MRTF to Town Council. Discussion was held regarding seawall height, turtle nesting, beach renourishment and zoning.

B. Rain Gardens (Weeg) - no report.

C. Adopt a Beach (Andre)

Ms. Andre reported that beach patrol was working very hard to keep the beach clean. Oasis High School was scheduled to work on the beach with Ms. Andre on Saturday. Discussion was held concerning beach patrol, cross training staff and vehicles on the beach.

D. Beachscape and Dune Plantings (Veach)

Ms. Blake indicated that a couple of property owners were interested in beach planting. She will contact the homeowners and report back. She noted that they would need a

DEP permit. Ms. Blake stated that she requested funds for approximately \$127.00 for planting at Newton Park. Chair Veach noted that the Charlotte Harbor provided grants for planting. Ms. Blake indicated that she would follow up with Jim Rodwell for additional information.

E. Community Outreach (Weeg)

Chair Veach reported that the Americana Music Association offered to help with the singer/songwriter event. Nancy McPhee at the TDC (Tourist Development Council) indicated that the winner of the competition would secure a slot at the Island Hopper Song Festival. Discussion was held regarding naming the event. Love your Island, Love your Mother and The Rhythm of the Island were mentioned.

MOTION: Ms. Andre moved to permit Ms. Weeg to join the meeting via speakerphone; second by Ms. Spalletta. (Ms. Andre was off microphone, so I didn't hear her exact motion.)

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

Ms. Blake called Ms. Weeg and was directed to her voice mail. Ms. Blake indicated she would follow up via email.

F. FAQ for Shelling and Dogs on Fort Myers Beach (Spalletta and Holmes)

Mr. Holmes will meet with Chuck Gallagher regarding dogs on the beach. Ms. Spalletta distributed a revised FAQ for shelling. Discussion ensued and changes were made to the list.

G. Environmental Education (Weeg and Veach) - no report.

H. Branding of Nature and Ecotourism (Veach)

Chair Veach stated that interpretive signs at beach accesses did not make the current TDC cycle, but they would get a head start for the next cycle. Ms. Blake offered to calculate installation charges for the signs.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Blake suggested that MRTF once again conduct presentations twice a year to beach rakers and chair vendors concerning taking care of the beach environment and best management practices. She also suggested holding dolphin tour presentations to jet ski rental companies. Ms. Andre suggested that beach vendors be required to attend an annual MRTF-sponsored presentation and receive a certificate in order to maintain their vendor license. Mr. Lubig indicated that the license stated that offenders would be fined and could lose their license. He felt that inviting vendors to attend an educational meeting would be more appropriate than requiring mandatory attendance. He felt that the biggest offenders were the boat rental companies because they were not educating renters about the beach environment. Chair Veach suggested that the presentation be available online. Mr. Lubig stated that he did not support tying the permit with the presentation due to current restrictions and costs. Ms. Blake did not

Stott
Baker
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present
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think Town Council would support the idea since revisions were just made to the permitting process. Ms. Blake stated that she would locate an old presentation and send it to MRTF members.

Chair Veach felt that Town Council should have a say about the Town operating vehicles on the beach in order to avoid traffic. Consensus was reached to add the topic to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Chair Veach congratulated Vice Mayor Andre for his commitment to the environment and the Island. All members thanked him and encouraged him to stay involved.

Vice Mayor Andre noted that bids went out for Matanzas Pass dredging and they were going to drop the sand between the Lani Kia and Red Coconut again. The sand should be dropped at Newton Park according to the Coast and Harbor report. Vice Mayor Andre encouraged MRTF to closely monitor the issue. He discussed sharing information with local communities and working together to avoid duplicating efforts.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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