

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tony Lubig, Mary Rose Spalletta, Keri Hendry-Weeg and Bill Veach.

Excused: Tree Andre and Greg Holmes.

Staff: Rae Blake

Council Liaison: Anita Cereceda

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 16, 2016

Scott Baker, Public Works Director, participated in the Adopt a Beach discussion.

MOTION: Ms. Spalletta moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by Chair Veach.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. MRTF Recommendations to Council (All)

Chair Veach summarized the recommendations concerning Grand Resorts. Discussion was held regarding amending the comp plan to change the vision of downtown, turtle nesting, and presenting recommendations to Council. Ms. Blake suggested waiting to present recommendations in view of the changes to the Grand Resorts plan and the new Council members. Chair Veach will send the report to Ms. Cereceda.

B. Earth Day (Weeg)

Ms. Weeg reported that the May 7, 2016 event was moving forward. Chair Veach received one song submission and two more were expected.

Sheena Stockton described the Island Hopper event and expressed concern about the timeline and limiting the song topic to Fort Myers Beach. She questioned whether it would be a yearly event. Chair Veach indicated that the topic had been expanded to include the environment. Ms. Stockton offered to assist with logistics. Discussion was held concerning submission guidelines, stipulations, quality of songs, extending the deadline, open mic events and BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.).

Ms. Cereceda discussed Sunshine Laws in relation to MRTF planning Earth Day. She offered to contact Town Attorney Lehnert for clarification on meeting outside of monthly meetings in order to organize the event.

Discussion was held regarding selecting judges. Ms. Weeg will procure another judge, Ms. Blake will confirm attendance from various individuals and organizations and Chair Veach will collaborate with Ms. Stockton concerning the criteria for judging. Ms. Cereceda offered to assist with sourcing T-shirts. Discussion was held regarding meeting on May 5 to manage details.

- C. Rain Gardens (Weeg) - no report.
- D. Adopt a Beach (Andre) - no report.
- E. Beachscape and Dune Plantings (Veach)

Ms. Blake reported that if Newton plantings were done during Turtle Season, a DEP permit would have to be pulled. She stated that she could get the sea oats in time to plant before May 1, 2016 and she would notify MRTF when she placed the order.

- F. Community Outreach (Weeg) - see Earth Day.
- G. FAQ for Shelling and Dogs on Fort Myers Beach (Spalletta and Holmes)

Ms. Blake forwarded Mr. Holmes' revised list and Ms. Spalletta distributed her revised list. Ms. Blake informed MRTF that beach patrol had the ability to write tickets now and Mr. Gallagher from B.A.S.E. was attempting to increase the Town's fine from \$32.00 to \$100.00 for dogs off leash.

MOTION: Ms. Weeg moved to recommend that the city fine for dogs off leash be raised from \$32.00 to \$100.00; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Veach offered to combine both FAQ lists.

- H. Environmental Education (Weeg and Veach)

Ms. Blake wrote an informational article concerning sea turtles to be published in May's issue of Sand Life.

Chair Veach noted that Council approved installing informational signs at beach accesses. He will meet with Parke Lewis and Penny Jarrett for assistance. Ms. Cereceda discussed putting QR codes on beach access signs for general beach information. Chair Veach discussed consolidating all advisory committee brochures.

- I. Branding of Nature and Ecotourism (Veach) - see above.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Veach updated Ms. Cereceda regarding the Town driving vehicles on the beach to avoid
MRTF 20160413

traffic. Discussion was held concerning trash pickup and code enforcement. Ms. Cereceda will contact Town Manager Stilwell and report back.

Ms. Blake discovered information in her files concerning beach raking and she suggested developing a presentation for beach vendors. She suggested creating a manatee and dolphin presentation for jet ski vendors.

Ms. Cereceda informed MRTF that working together to put on the Earth Day event will not be a Sunshine violation per Town Attorney Lehnert. The violation occurs when discussion about matters that will come before the committee for a vote occur outside the Sunshine. They must avoid talking about other voting business items while working on the event.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Lubig moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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