

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
MARINE RESOURCES TASK FORCE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, July 12, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Veach. Members present: Tony Lubig, Shannon Mapes, Mary Rose Spalletta and Bill Veach.

Absent: Greg Holmes

Staff: Rae Burns

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 10, 2017

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Fertilizer Ordinance - John Vuknic

Chair Veach questioned why the presentation stated that it took one inch of rain to cause runoff and in other places, it stated two inches. Mr. Vuknic replied that it depended on the soil content and other factors. Ms. Mapes questioned whether native ground cover could be substituted for turf. Mr. Vuknic replied that turf was denser, but species of native ground cover could work in certain areas.

Ms. Mapes questioned why they needed a winter blackout since the growing season was year-round. Mr. Vuknic responded that it depended on the weather. He abdicated no blackouts during the year but if there had to be one, winter was better. Chair Veach questioned the contradiction of year-round growth versus minimal uptake in the winter. Mr. Vuknic replied that growth was based on the weather.

Ms. Mapes reviewed her changes to the fertilizer ordinance. Chair Veach read through all the changes. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council that the following language be added to the fertilizer ordinance: there should be a 10 minute maximum water time after the application of fertilizer; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to modify the definition of impervious surfaces in the fertilizer ordinance to include plastic sheeting or any other impervious membrane put under rocks or vegetation; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council to change the buffer zone between open bodies of water and the application of fertilizer to 25 feet; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council that they ban liquid forms of fertilizer; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion defeated; 3-1.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council that they change the distance between fertilizer application and contained bodies of water on a voluntary basis from three feet to twenty-five; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council that they change the distance for raised beds, potted plants and vegetable gardens to 10 feet between fertilizer application and open bodies of water; second by (inaudible).

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to recommend to Council that they do not change the summer ban; second by Ms. Spalletta.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

B. Review of Policies and Procedures

Ms. Burns provided copies. Chair Veach commented that he was not sure why Town Clerk Mayher deleted the section regarding the Land Development Code (LDC). Ms. Mapes and Mr. Lubig agreed with changes made by Town Clerk Mayher. Chair Veach did not agree with deleting the LDC sentence. Chair Veach questioned whether an invocation was required. Town Manager Hernstadt commented that he did not know but he recommended that they be consistent with the other advisory committees. Chair Veach recommended that they read through the edited document and vote next month.

C. Plastics and Styrofoam on the Beach

Chair Veach discussed trash from visitors, business activity and trash that washed up on the Gulf. He noted that raking trash buried it. He discussed encouraging people to pick up trash and supporting clean-up efforts. Mr. Lubig brought up the environmentally-friendly machine that sifted trash from the sand. Ms. Burns indicated that language in the LDC had to be changed in order to allow the machine on the beach. She stated that it would have to go to Council. Discussion was held regarding the sifting machine.

Ms. Burns indicated that currently, no public works' vehicles were driving on the beach to pick up trash. Beach accesses were used to collect trash from the cans. Mr. Lubig thought that it was a bad idea because of all the trash that washed up on the beach. He noted that he had been picking up more big items lately. Mr. Veach suggested that one person operate the vehicle while another walk the beach.

Chair Veach commented that nothing in the raking ordinance stated that trash had to be picked up before raking. Mr. Lubig suggested adding that requirement at the meeting with the rakers. Ms. Burns agreed. Discussion was held regarding changing the language in the ordinance. Mr. Lubig will attend the rakers meeting and report back next month. Ms. Spalletta suggested a carry-in, carry-out campaign with an emphasis on cigarette butts.

D. Stormwater Swales

Chair Veach stated that CRAB was working on landscaping the swales. Ms. Burns will research swale types. Ms. Mapes noted that surveys had to be completed before the County could determine where the swales were located. She questioned why they were discussing the issue so early.

E. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"

Chair Veach suggested awarding the individuals who cleaned up the beach after the Fourth of July. Ms. Burns will look into the contact information affiliated with the permit to try to determine who attended.

MOTION: Chair Veach moved to nominate Keep Lee County Beautiful for next month's Murphie; second by Mr. Lubig.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Burns indicated that Eldon Ridener moved and would no longer participate in MRTF.

Ms. Spalletta stated that there were 78 turtle nests.

Mr. Lubig noted that the dredging and renourishment were going well and his beach was growing. Ms. Burns urged people to stay away from the work zone.

Ms. Burns stated that the water quality ordinance was with the lawyers and she will know the budget by August. She explained that the attorneys would draft an ordinance addressing straws. She revealed that the biodegradable straws degraded within 160 days.

Ms. Mapes indicated that she would not be attending the August meeting. She agreed to present the fertilizer issue to Council in Chair Veach's absence.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - no public comment

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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