

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

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Rae Burns. Members present: Greg Holmes, Steve Johnson, Louise Kowitch, Shannon Mapes and Mary Rose Spalletta.

Excused: Bill Veach

Unexcused: Keri Hendry Weeg

Staff: Rae Burns

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 9, 2017

No action.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

•Leon Moyer, resident, commented that the website should have been changed to reflect the day of the meeting. He discussed sewage in Estero Bay and he described the process to become a No Discharge Zone through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

•John Heim, resident and Leader of the Southwest Florida Clean Water Movement, discussed educating the public regarding discharges from Lake Okeechobee. He questioned why the beach did not have signs warning about the quality of water and he noted that there had been talk of utilizing QR codes with water quality information. He stated his group planned to go back to the bridge to protest the lack of public education.

V. CURRENT ITEMS

A. Review of Policies and Procedures

Ms. Burns read suggestions for changes from Chair Veach. Town Manager Hernstadt led a discussion regarding creating a schedule to present items to Council.

Ms. Mapes questioned removing the residency requirement. Ms. Burns replied that preference was given to residents or business owners but non-residents could serve too.

Ms. Mapes questioned the removal of reviewing the Land Development Code (LDC). Ms. Burns responded that the LDC merged into the Code of Ordinances Book.

Ms. Spalletta suggested that missing two meetings in a row should trigger a discussion.

Ms. Burns suggested sending a letter after two unexcused absences and after the third offense, the committee will discuss the future participation of the member.

Mr. Holmes and Ms. Kowitch spoke off microphone.

Ms. Spalletta suggested setting the date of the Mulholland award to April. Ms. Burns

will contact the media late January/early February. Consensus was reached to change the absentee policy to state that after two unexcused absences, the member would receive a letter asking whether they wished to remain a member. Three unexcused absences would result in a vote to discuss removing the member. Consensus was reached to create dates for the John Mulholland award with a March vote from MRTF and a request that Council vote for the nominee in April.

B. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Mr. Veach ran unopposed. Ms. Spalletta nominated Ms. Mapes for Vice Chair. Ms. Mapes withdrew her name. Ms. Hendry Weeg will remain Vice Chair.

C. Plastics on the Beach

Ms. Mapes suggested that merchants charge customers for plastic bags. She will research the legalities.

Ms. Spalletta questioned the removal of trash cans at beach accesses. Ms. Burns replied that they were temporarily removed for Irma. Discussion was held regarding charging for plastic bags and hotels providing complimentary reusable bags. Ms. Kowitch described a phase-out program to eliminate plastic bags. Paper bags would be available in the absence of durable bags. Ms. Burns will research the topic. Ms. Kowitch mentioned edible containers.

Ms. Burns noted that Chair Veach recommended that raking over trash should be prohibited. He recommended more outreach using local, seasonal, changing topical signs. Ms. Burns read several suggestions.

D. Good Citizen Award aka the "Murphie"

Chair Veach suggested Becky Sanford and Pat Pfeiffer from Old Town, Florida. They were spotted picking up trash on the beach. Ms. Spalletta stated that everyone on the beach deserved a Murphie for pitching in after Irma. Consensus was reached to award Ms. Sanford and Ms. Pfeiffer with a Murphie.

VI. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Ms. Burns reported that Ms. Giesen supported TDC funded nature-based signs at some of the access sites. Ms. Giesen would like to make a presentation next month regarding sign options. All members agreed.

Ms. Mapes clarified Sunshine requirements.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Moyer pointed out that some members spoke off microphone. He stated that MRTF must vote on excusing absent members. He commented on an dog defecating in the water.

Ms. Burns indicated that Ms. Hendry Weeg's absent was unexcused and Chair Veach was excused.

VIII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING - November 8, 2017

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Burns adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

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

Vote: 5-0 *each ass'n* Signature: 

- End of document