



MINUTES

**FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931**

MOUND HOUSE WORKSESSION

May 5, 2010

2 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Present with Mayor Kiker Vice Mayor Raymond, Council members List, Mandel and Babcock, Town Attorney Terry Stewart, Cultural Resources Director Theresa Schober and Town Clerk Michelle Mayher.

Environmental Sciences Coordinator Keith Laakkonen provided an update on the oil spill.

Town Manager Stewart provided a history of the Mound House Project as well as supplying 3 series of charts showing the work done along with work needing completion, who would be responsible for the work and the funding to date and what work has yet to be funded.

Mr. Stewart continued by bringing Council up to date on the observation pier, stating it was in the original plan, it had been authorized by Council and a submerged land lease had been acquired with funding from the TDC to construct the pier. It was noted that if Council decided not to build the pier the submerged land lease would be void after 5 years.

Council was also provided with information on the Cultural Resources Department, the employees and the two FPAN employees who were funded by the State of Florida and to be located at the Newton Park property once opened.

Discussion continued with information on the town owned property on Connecticut Street, which has been thought to be additional parking for the

Mound House, the rezoning which would be required for the property and the actual need for the parking in regards to the influx of visitors to the Mound House.

The possible rezoning of onsite areas if Connecticut Street was not used for additional parking was also noted. The landscaping of the property was addressed along with the level of intensity for the use of the property, the level of funding from the town and how it would affect the neighbors of the property.

A report by Denny Weimer which offered different levels of intensity on the property, staff needed, and funds required by the town was presented to Council for review.

Councilmember Mandel was interested in completing the needed work for the ADA parking and pathway required and open the underground exhibit.

Councilmember Babcock felt the project was an asset to the community. He wanted to see the project sequenced, to open the exhibit, and address the parking issue on site as well as utilizing Connecticut Street for parking and then look for funding to finish the project.

Vice Mayor Raymond indicated he backed the project due to its historical nature but did not see it being used as an actual park, not wanting to bring large crowds and causing issues with the surrounding neighbors.

Councilmember List was interested in opening the underground exhibit and saw the need to make a decision on the parking issues.

Mayor Kiker stated he was in favor of the Mound House, however was concerned with the financial ramifications of the property to the town. Mayor Kiker wanted to see a minimal acceptable level for the project.

Councilmember Babcock felt the two issues were funds, capital cost and operational cost as well as impact to the neighbors. Councilmember Babcock was not in favor of selling Connecticut and indicated there needed to be public hearings regarding the rezoning of the Connecticut property for parking.

After continued discussion Council decided to move ahead and open the underground exhibit, the ADA compliant parking and pathway and the amended zoning on the Mound House site.

Councilmember Mandel left the meeting to attend a proclamation presentation representing the Council and town.

Councilmember Babcock continued to voice his opinion on the need for rezoning the Connecticut Street parking.

Recess: 3:55 PM Reconvene: 4:12 PM

Discussion continued regarding the possibilities for parking on site, rezoning of Connecticut as well as investigating a similar property in Naples to learn how that area deals with visitors, traffic and impact on neighbors.

Mayor Kiker then stated the need to complete the house itself and then move outward in regards to the landscaping, with a 3 year completion date.

Councilmember List reiterated her desire to put in the ADA compliant parking and pathway to open the underground exhibit while decisions were made regarding funding for the house followed by a hearing for 216 Connecticut.

Rezoning of 216 Connecticut as well as amended rezoning for the site itself was again discussed.

Before ending the meeting it was decided to finish the underground exhibit and get it open and prepare something for CIP regarding completion of the Mound House as well as adding time for discussion on the observation pier for a future Council Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

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