

MEXICO BEACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

Type: Monthly Meeting
When: Monday, March 16, 2017 - Mexico Beach Civic Center
Attending:

Sandie Yarbrough	Director	Linda Albrecht	Director
Cathey Hobbs	Director	Wylie Petty	Director
Clayton Studstill	Director	Dena Frost	Director
Robert Carroll	Director	Kimberly Shoaf	President
		Melissa Williams	

The meeting was brought to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. After review, a motion was made by Director Albrecht and seconded by Director Hobbs to approve the February 16, 2017 monthly meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments: None

President Shoaf presented the year-to-date FY17 financial report. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Studstill and seconded by Director Albrecht to accept the FY17 YTD Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Yarbrough stated that bed tax collections were up 6.5% for the month of January per the Bed Tax Collection Report. There were no questions from the Board regarding the Bed Tax Collection Report.

- o Director Petty joined the meeting.

Marketing Update:

Director Yarbrough directed the Board to the Cornerstone Marketing Report in each agenda packet. President Shoaf recapped ongoing projects.

Presentations:

- Audit FY16 – Rich Moreira from Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC distributed the annual FY16 audit report. He reviewed the financial statements and compliance report along with answering Board questions. He noted that it was a clean audit with no findings.
 - o Director Frost joined the meeting.
- MBCDC Feasibility Study – Lisa Armbruster, owner of Sustainable Beaches, LLC, spoke to the Board about beach funding. She informed the Board that DEP has approached the City with leftover funds from 2015-2016. The \$621,000 grant with the State funding 75% (\$465,750) and local funding of 25% (\$155,250) is a great opportunity for the City. President Shoaf related that Mell Smigielski has accepted the grant for the City and Ms. Armbruster identified that the State needs a Scope of Work. Director Yarbrough asked whether the City could use the MBCDC's information and Ms. Armbruster confirmed. Due to projector problems, the presentation was delayed.

Sponsorships:

- Mexico Beach Ling Ding Fishing Tournament – President Shoaf informed the Board that Nate Odum had requested any funding for the Ling Ding fishing tournament. She noted that the tournament will be one weekend versus three weekends in the past; however, if there is not a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place fish on the board, the tournament will carry over to the next weekend as well. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Frost and seconded by Director Studstill to award the Mexico Beach Ling Ding fishing tournament a sponsorship of \$1,500. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mexico Beach Offshore Classic – President Shoaf informed the Board that Nate Odum had requested funding for the Mexico Beach Offshore Classic fishing tournament that will be held July 28th-29th. She informed the Board that tournament officials were looking into giving proceeds to other causes. After discussion, President Shoaf was directed to obtain more details on this tournament and its use of proceeds and report back to the Board.

Events:

- Vow Renewal Ceremony – President Shoaf informed the Board that the ceremony now has 50 couples with a total of over 150 attendees including couples and guests. She stated the beach and reception area will be decorated the same as last year along with guitar music during the procession and reception. She inquired as to whether the couple should receive an artificial bouquet of flowers or a single rose and the Board agreed to give a single rose to each couple.

Presentations:

- MBCDC Feasibility Study – Mike Dombrowski of MRD presented the feasibility study slideshow. He stated the 2008 feasibility study focused on the inlet with recommendations including dredging and utilizing the West sand trap and extending dredge pipe (DEP Monuments R132-138.8). He stated that Section 132-138, the 1.3 miles from the El Governor Motel to Toucans, was critically eroding and reviewed the dredge history. Mr. Dombrowski spoke about trends to increase the shoreline and techniques such as using sand trucks, structures and dune enhancements. He stated truck hauling of sand could be done in phases and that there would be a possibility of the beach being closed off for a week or two; breakwaters and groins were challenging to permit and very expensive; dune cores provide storm protection for upland structures – but do not build beach; vegetative plantings and sand fencing is the least expensive option. Mr. Dombrowski ranked the options by cost: 1) truck hauling was a good option with low costs; and 2) East jetty improvements is very efficient and qualifies for State funding.

- Director Hobbs left the meeting.

Mr. Dombrowski recommended truck hauling of sand and East side jetty improvements stating that less than 30,000 cubic yards could be done twice a year or phased in over time. This would occur outside of turtle nesting season and would only take two months. The East side jetty improvements would take a few months of construction. Lisa Armbruster stated permitting was a lot easier to keep the sand removal procedure in the dry instead of in the water. Discussion from the Board followed regarding the use of reef balls instead of boulders, fencing, clearance of trucks around pier and offshore sand sources. Audience questions pertained to the trucking down beaches. Lisa Armbruster reiterated that the City needs to take action and Mell Smigielski stated DEP knows the City was waiting on the presentation to obtain the Scope of Work. Mr. Dombrowski stated he will send President Shoaf a copy of the presentation to share with the Board.

President's Report: None

Old Business:

- Leave No Trace – Director Albrecht asked when the Board would be discussing the Leave No Trace as it had been skipped over. Director Yarbrough stated it had been tabled due to the need for more information since this request was just received Monday. Director Albrecht stated her concern for tabling this issue and Director Yarbrough stated some issues needed clarifying on what the CDC can and can't pay. President Shoaf mentioned the CDC was not capped out on amount of money we give to the City but clarification was needed on whether a public safety entity will be implementing Leave No Trace. She stated she was advised to speak to legal counsel. Discussion followed involving Board members and audience members accusing the Board of stonewalling. Director Petty pointed out that in no way would stonewalling be beneficial to the Board. President Shoaf stated that the CDC needs to stay within State Statute and not exceed the amount allowed to give to the City. Discussion followed involving Board members and the audience in regard to how Leave No Trace costs were projected to be paid. Director Yarbrough informed the Board that the CDC Board could hold a special meeting. Mell Smigielski presented from the audience the estimated cost of beach raking and beach tipping. President Shoaf stated that magnets were delivered to the vacation rental companies and rack cards were given to all businesses to make visitors aware of Leave No Trace. She also stated that rack cards were being placed in each visitor guide packet. Director Yarbrough instructed President Shoaf to arrange a special meeting to discuss Leave No Trace.

A motion was made by Director Studstill and seconded by Director Frost to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Clayton Studstill
Secretary/Treasurer

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