



**CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2016 8:30 a.m.**

**Coral Gables Merrick House**

**907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts*

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FLORIDA 33134

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MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY:
	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	
Amy Kutell	P	P	P	-	-	P	E	-	-	P	P	-	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Laura Yusko	E	P	E	-	-	P	P	-	-	E	P	-	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Margaret Meeks <sup>^</sup>								-	-	P	P	-	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Ana Lam	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Barbara Reese				-	-	A	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Susan Rodriguez	E	P	P	-	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	City Manager
Joanne Meagher	P	P	E	-	-	P	P	-	-	E	A	-	P	Board-as-a Whole

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

ElizaBeth Guin, Historic Preservationist  
Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant,  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Department

A = Absent                      E = Excused  
P = Present  
\* = Special Meeting   - = No Meeting  
^ = New Member  
+ = Resigned Member

**GUESTS:** Kelly Moran, David Lanster

**MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION:** Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant,  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Department.

Chair Yusko called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and stated attendance for the record.

Ms. Lam arrived at 8:37 a.m.

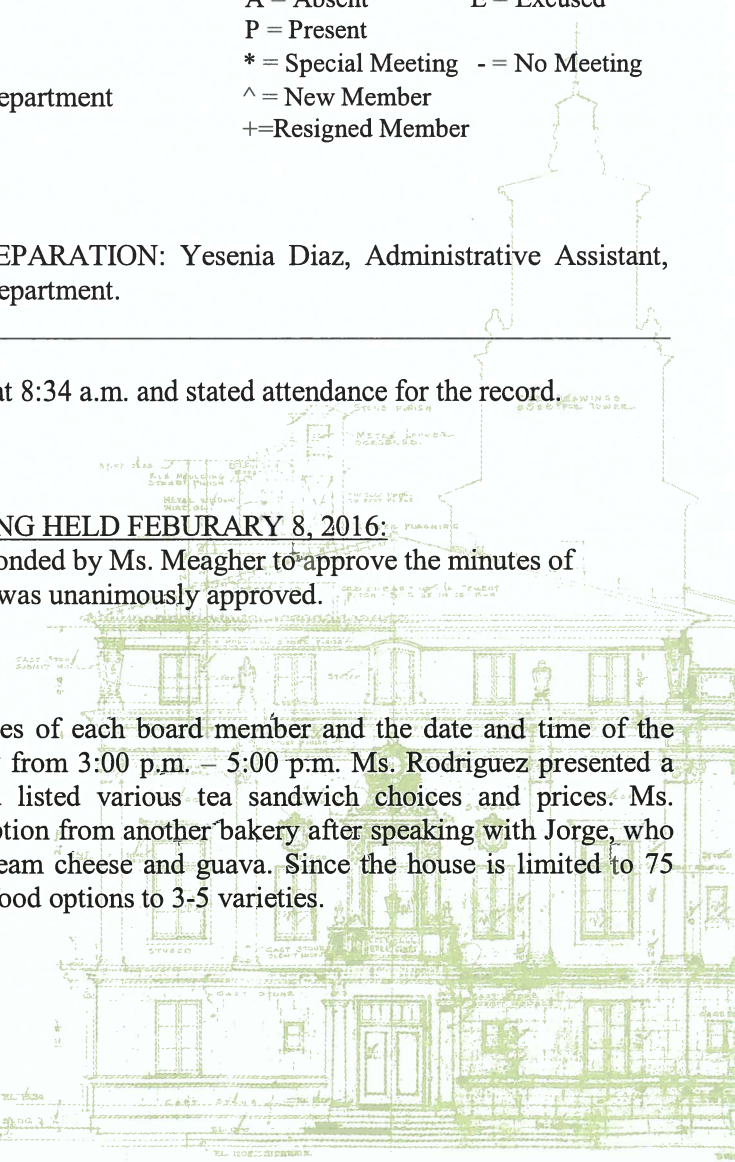
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 8, 2016:**

A motion was made by Ms. Lam and seconded by Ms. Meagher to approve the minutes of February 8, 2016 as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Tea with George & Arva, April 17:

Chair Yusko reviewed the responsibilities of each board member and the date and time of the event which would take place April 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ms. Rodriguez presented a pricing list from Gilbert’s Bakery and listed various tea sandwich choices and prices. Ms. Meagher suggested using a secondary option from another bakery after speaking with Jorge, who was willing to provide crackers with cream cheese and guava. Since the house is limited to 75 people, Chair Yusko suggested limiting food options to 3-5 varieties.



After lengthy discussion, the board finalized the food which included tea sandwiches and scones from Gilbert's Bakery. Chair Yusko stated that she will be bringing Margret's tea service and also will be providing 2 center pieces. Ms. Reese discussed the option of serving hot tea and Chair Yusko suggested eliminating the hot tea option and focusing on getting iced tea, lemonade, and water for simplification purposes.

Finalization for the event continued. Ms. Reese would be bringing an ice bucket, scooper, and paper goods. Ms. Lam volunteered to bring the sugar, lemonade, iced tea and a silver set. Ms. Rodriguez will be bringing a table and picking up the tea sandwiches. Ms. Meeks discussed bringing table cloths.

#### POP UP DINNER AT MERRICK HOUSE PRESENTATION:

Ms. Meagher introduced Kelly Moran and David Lanster who are aspiring chefs. They relayed their history and educational background. Ms. Moran informed the board of their Pop Up Dinner series taking place in the summer on 4 different weekends at 4 different venues. She stated how the Merrick House would be an ideal venue for the series and understood that the house would be undergoing renovations and empty during the selected time but could make it work regardless of the circumstances.

Ms. Moran added the left over funds after covering their initial costs could be donated to the Merrick House and dishes could be incorporated that relate to the House's history. The board was informed that 24 people could be seated on a long table with 12 courses. The event would be taking place over the course on 3 nights. The desired days of the event would be Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in May.

After a lengthy discussion the board agreed that it would be a great event to have at the House. Ms. Moran informed the board that the event would be promoted on social media. Chair Yusko stated that she would have to run it by Kara Kautz as City staff might have to be at the house when the event takes place. Ms. Guin informed the board that Ms. Kautz wanted to let the board know in her absence that the event is not typically what Merrick House rentals are and that staff was not in support of the event. Ms. Reese stated that it was not a rental but a fundraiser. More discussion continued. Chair Yusko volunteered to speak with Ms. Kautz about the event with further communication to take place via e-mail.

Chair Yusko stated that first they would obtain approval from staff before presenting it to the Events Committee for approval. Ms. Rodriguez volunteered to go to the Events Committee to present the event.

HOUSE REPORT: Ms. Guin stated that there was nothing new to report.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Merrick House Renovation:

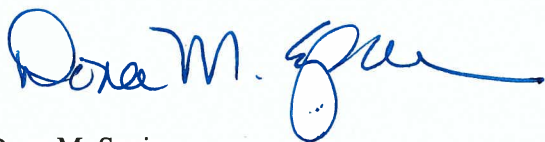
Ms. Guin updated the board on the status of the renovation, informing them that the House would be emptied on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, adding that sealed bids have been accepted and are still going through the process. She also stated that Ms. Kautz had met with a conservator in regard to some of the paintings in the House.

Mary Adams Project:

Ms. Rodriguez inquired if the project was completed. Ms. Guin informed that the project has not been finalized but that Ms. Kautz had been attempting to contact her.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dona M. Spain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director