



CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

2327 Salzedo Street, 2nd Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY:
	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	
<i>Historical Resources & Cultural Arts</i> Ada "Adi" Busot	-	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	E	Mayor Raul Valdés-Fauli
Ana Lam	-	P	-	-	-	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Margaret Meeks	-	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Joanne Meagher	-	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Comm. Frank Quesada
Barbara Reese	-	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Susan Rodriguez^	-	P	-	-	-	P	A	E	-	P	^	^	^	City Manager
Nina Jarp*								P	P	-	E	P	P	Board-as-a Whole

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305.460.5093
✉ hist@coralgables.com

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; * = New Member; ^ = Resigned Member;
- = No Meeting; # = Late meeting arrival

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Director
Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
ElizaBeth Guin, Historic Preservation Coordinator
Laura Yusko, Merrick House Docent Coordinator
Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant

RECORDING SECRETARY/PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

GUESTS: Gusatvo Ceballos, Assistant City Attorney

The meeting was called to order by Chair Meagher at 8:45 a.m. and attendance was stated for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 11, 2019:

A motion was made by Ms. Lam and seconded by Ms. Meeks to approve the minutes of March 11, 2019 with the following correction: Kitty Perry be changed to Kitty Terry. The motion was unanimously approved.

HOUSE REPORT: March 2019

Ms. Kautz reported the following balances:

- Trust Fund Balance: \$26,989 (expenditure account), \$1,546 (revenue account)
- Roxy O'Neal Bolton Fund for exterior maintenance: \$4,939 (unchanged)

DOCENT REPORT: Ms. Yusko enthusiastically reported that the House had seen a further increase in visitors and that the docent core of ten has the possibility of growing further with two more volunteers. The docent core was praised for their knowledge and eagerness to learn new material by Ms. Yusko.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Reese inquired about the landscape lighting at the House and lack of lighting at night. Ms. Yusko pointed out that there were light posts and possibly needing to reset the timers after the time change. Ms. Kautz will look into it.

Chair Meagher brought up an idea to have a donation jar displayed at the upcoming event for the purpose of generating funds to fix the phonograph at the Merrick House. The idea was to try and fix it and have authentic music play at Merrick

House events. She also suggested that the House have items on display that visitors can hold, and further suggested finding a mule cart to park in the driveway as a possible starting point to the House tours.

Ms. Kautz reported that HistoryMiami would be renting the House on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Ms. Yusko reported that the D.A.R. was renting the House in October.

Chair Meagher informed the Board that she and Ms. Busot would set up a vendor table at the event with a yard sale items benefitting the Merrick House. Ms. Lam volunteered to work the vintage clothing table with Ms. Busot. Chair Meagher asked the Board if they had any old books or clothes to donate for the sale. Another suggestion that the Chair made was for the Board to wear an old brooch or jewelry with some history behind it to explain to guests at the event. Ms. Meeks volunteered to make the name tags for the Board members to for the public to ask them about their pieces.

Further logistics were discussed for the event including the placement of the speakers on the front porch and having Marcus Magalhaes as the main musician playing throughout the event. Chair Meagher suggested that Marlin Ebbert provide the opening remarks for the event. House tours that day would be walkthroughs only. Ms. Yusko would reach out to docents to check their availability for the event. Ms. Meeks would be buying the ribbons for the maypole but would need assistance setting it up before the event. She presented the design to the Board.

It was requested by the Chair that the event be filmed and photographed. Further details were discussed such as the number of chairs (75) and tables. The event activities were broken down into the following timeslots: 1:05 p.m.-1:10 p.m. Opening Remarks by Marlin Ebbert, 1:10 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Jorge Rivera (City Landscaping), 1:30 p.m. Maypole Gathering, 1:40 p.m.-2:00 City Recycling, 2:00 p.m. Maypole Gathering, 2:10 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Small Space Gardening, 2:30 p.m. Maypole Gathering, 2:40 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Ellen Book Composting Lecture, 3:00 p.m.-3:30 Poetry Slam.

The Board discussed a children's craft making old-fashioned tin ceiling tiles out of recycled materials. There will also be Children's Yoga. A table will be on the front porch showing a video of Nancy Martini and her stenciling skills.

Ms. Reese asked if a police officer would be patrolling the event. Ms. Kautz replied in the affirmative.

The Chair reported the following vendors for the event although some had not yet confirmed their attendance: Courtney's Cookies, Plant B. Café, Empanadas, Raw Juice, Gables Delite, Congregational Fair Trade, Ika Wearable Art, the honey vendor, Kreative Gardens, Merrick House Vintage, Mama's Guava Bars, Petra Soy Candles, Toni Garcia, vintage housewares and glassware, vintage clothing.

Ms. Yusko asked if there was a rain plan in place. After much discussion, the Board concluded that a rain plan was not necessary.

Ms. Kautz introduced Assistant City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables, Gusatvo Ceballos. Ms. Kautz requested his attendance to discuss the Royal Poinsettia Festival rental from the January meeting. The concern was that the Board did not have authority to award a city sponsorship as it would entail the City to provide funding and overtime expenses for a private event. Mr. Ceballos explained that such a request would have to be approved by the City Manager's office. Ms. Spain informed the Board that the matter had been brought up at a Director's meeting and that the Royal Poinsettia Festival had already approached the City to be a sponsor of their event.

Ms. Kautz stated that her recollection from the previous meetings was that Sally Jude was supposed to have come back to the Board with a report regarding their event. If the event is held on the porch, the Board can approve, but if the event is held on the grounds it has to go through the City's Special Event Committee. She added that more information was required as to the group's needs. Ms. Spain stated that whatever happens with the Royal Poinsettia Festival event would set a precedent for other organizations that apply. Mr. Ceballos firmly stated that the group can not list the City as a sponsor.

The revision of the rental documents was still being worked on and it was announced by Ms. Kautz that it would be presented at a later date for Board discussion. She listed the current rental prices, \$50 for a day time rental, \$100 for a night rental, \$200 for the weekend up to 3 hours.

Ms. Reese asked for a status update on the brochures. Ms. Yusko informed the Board that the brochures had recently arrived.

Ms. Reese left at 10:05 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY: Ms. Spain informed the Board that the Merrick House was awarded the Dade Heritage Trust Preservation Award for the restoration and would be featured in their magazine.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 13th, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.; Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department, 2327 Salzedo Street, 2nd Floor

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director