

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2009

Coral Gables Merrick House

907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	COMMISSIONERS
Barbara Reese	E	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	A	E	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Margaret Steele	P	P	P	P	E	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Jany Marchena	P	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	E	A	P	E	Comm. Maria Anderson
Olga Baquero-Lima	P	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Laura Yusko	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Marie Vacca	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Board Appointee
Sondra Space	P	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Kara Kautz, Historic Preservation Officer

A = Absent

E = Excused

P = Present

*** = Special Meeting**

- = No Meeting

^ = New Member

+ = Resigned

RECORDING SECRETARY: Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

Chair Yusko called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m.

Minutes of January 26, 2009 Board Meeting:

Ms. Space made a motion to approve the January 26, 2009 minutes. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Merrick House Day at Farmers Market – March 7, 2009:

As Chair of this event, Ms. Space reported that the booth location was as yet undetermined; however the cooking demonstration will focus on preserving and canning food, she will dress as Althea Merrick. Period clothing will be available for children to enjoy "dressing up," and a volunteer

photographer will be on hand to photograph their characters. Recipes used during the cooking demonstration will be available.

Meeting Attendance:

Ms. Space made a motion to excuse the absences of Ms. Baquero-Lima, Ms. Marchena and Ms. Reese. The motion passed.

House Report:

Ms. Kautz reported the following:

- January House visitors: 24 adults, two senior citizens and five young people, plus St. Phillip's 4th graders on January 12.
- Trust Fund balance as of February 20: \$44,306.73
- A representative of DAR requested less kitchen clutter as they need space when they occupy the House. The matter will be resolved prior to the next DAR meeting.
- Harriett Liles will attend a later Board meeting to present a gift of china for Merrick House.
- The Coral Gables Garden Club has not yet paid for their use of the House in December.
- Ms. Kautz will coordinate removal of holiday lights.
- Ms. Kautz will secure three proposals for second story floor refinishing.

Old Business:

House Brochure:

Ms. Yusko reported less than satisfactory initial cover designs/colors from Goosepen Press for the brochure. After discussing suggestions with the printer, she anticipates having a sample cover for the next Board meeting.

Donation Policy:

Ms. Kautz reported that the donation policy would be reviewed by the Board next month, and requested Board comments other than those already received. Copies of the current policy will be provided to absentee Board members.

Docents:

Ms. Steele discussed a few people interested in becoming docents. Ms. Kautz will contact them.

Signage:

Ms. Kautz contacted the company that furnished a detailed 2004 quote for signage and requested an updated quote.

Refrigerator:

To be discussed at the March meeting.

House Decorator Proposal:

Ms. Kautz distributed a proposal received from Business Interiors, Inc. for design services. The estimate proposed 40 to 45 hours of combined project time for a fee not to exceed \$3,500, a deposit of \$1,000, plus cost of materials. The upholsterer/drapery maker visited the House and reviewed the scope of work. Moving 1920s era furnishings, stored elsewhere in the House, to the living room was a topic of discussion since some current living room furniture is not period appropriate.

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Continued

Ms. Steele made a motion to accept the Business Interiors, Inc. proposal and approve the deposit of \$1,000. The motion was unanimously adopted.

After discussing drapery cleaning, the Board decided to ask Ms. McKey for a dry cleaning recommendation. Ms. McKey will bring fabric choices to a future Board meeting for selection.

New Business:

Solomon Merrick Painting:

Ms. Kautz met with Michelle Reeves at her framing studio to consider options for framing the Solomon Merrick painting. Photographs of preferred frames were reviewed by the Board. Cost estimates range from \$923 to \$1,100 plus installation. Ms. Reeves will bring frame material to a Board meeting and seek a decision about where the picture will be displayed. When framing and upholstery projects are completed, an unveiling event will be held. Ms. Reeves will be invited to the next Board meeting.

Discussion Items:

House notecards will be reprinted in a larger size and will be displayed and sold along with Tom Spain notecards at the March 7 Merrick House Day at the Farmers Market.

Ms. Yusko reminded Board members to review the donation policy before the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2009, 8:45 a.m., Merrick House

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara N. Kautz
Historic Preservation Officer