

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2008

Coral Gables Merrick House

907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	COMMISSIONERS
Barbara Reese	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Margaret Steele	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Jany Marchena	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	E	Comm. Maria Anderson
Olga Baquero-Lima	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Laura Yusko	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Marie Vacca	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Board Appointee
Sondra Space	P	P	P	P	P	E	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 8:50 a.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Ms. Space made a motion to excuse the absence of Ms. Marchena. The motion was approved.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 20, 2008:

Two revisions were made to the October 20th minutes: The next meeting of the Board will be held Monday, December 1 at 8:45 a.m. rather than Monday, December 8, 2008. Added to the Donation Policy Revisions will be: Items donated to the City prior to policy acceptance will be "grandfathered" in to the policy.

Ms. Space made a motion to approve the October 20, 2008 meeting minutes as revised. The motion was approved.

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Committee Reports:

Holiday Open House:

Ms. Baquero-Lima distributed and reviewed an updated report that included all details of the December 13 Holiday Open House. The Board will prepare the invitation mailing this week. The gingerbread house contest hosted by the Coral Gables Museum was discussed with thoughts of displaying one of the gingerbread structures at the Open House. House decorating will be done on Thursday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m. by Coral Gables Garden Club and Board members.

February Party:

Pointing out that the February party was conceived as an opportunity to advise people about renovation plans as a foundation for raising funds, Ms. Reese and Ms. Vacca requested a renovation update. Ms. Kautz reviewed the status of signage, brochures, purchase orders, the rock wall, framing and textiles, advising that Procurement would determine how each item would be handled. After discussion, a decision was made to change the February event to either Fall 2009 or early 2010 to ensure that renovation work was completed. Regarding interior renovations, Ms. Steele will contact interior designer Lucille McKey to let her know Ms. Kautz will invite her to attend an upcoming Board meeting.

House Report:

Ms. Kautz reported the following:

- October House visitors: 23
- Trust Fund balance: \$44,545.15
- DAR rental: status continues to be good
- The picture framer will attend an upcoming Board meeting to make recommendations regarding Solomon Merrick's painting.
- Saturday, March 7, 2009 was selected as Merrick Day at the Farmer's Market and will be communicated to the Development Department.
- The Pinewood Cemetery Board hosted a small event at the house on November 16 in honor of Harriet Liles.

New Business:

House Lighting:

Ms. Reese advised that the House and grounds were very dark at night, stating a need for landscape lighting and timers.

Tourists/Tour Companies/Docents:

Ms. Reese has noticed several tour buses stopping in front of the House, whose occupants disembark and walk around the grounds as they have no access to the inside. She suggested notifying tour companies of the hours of House access. During discussion, Ms. Kautz advised of the few available docents and the lack of funding to provide an on-site staff person.

Old Business:

Donation Policy Rewrite:

Ms. Kautz will work with suggested revisions received thus far, and present a draft of the document at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Yusko will forward a revised copy to Ms. Kautz.

Refrigerator:

Ms. Rusko reported that an old-fashioned appearing refrigerator was available for purchase and had the capacity of replacing both current refrigerators, neither of which is in good operating condition. She will forward information to Ms. Kautz for further discussion in January.

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Discussion Items:

Refinishing Second Story Wood Floors:

Regarding completion of the second floor, Ms. Kautz asked Board members to help research reputable companies specializing in wood floor refinishing.

Idea for Creative Development:

Citing the artistic nature of the Merrick family, Ms. Kautz suggested Board consideration of initiating an art event that invites artistic people to use the House grounds on a specific date. A reasonable participation fee (i.e., \$5 per person) could be charged per entrant. The created artwork could be exhibited and judged, an award could be given and the Board could use the winning design for its annual holiday invitation or for an invitation to a gala. This will be further discussed.

Coral Gables Museum:

Ms. Kautz reported that the Museum received its building permit, thus officially beginning the process of developing the site.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 1, 2008, 8:45 a.m., Merrick House

Respectfully submitted,

Kara N. Kautz
Historic Preservation Officer