

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2010, 8:45 a.m.
Coral Gables Merrick House
907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	F 09	M 09	A 09	M 09	J 09	J* 09	A 09	S 09	S* 09	O 09	N 09	D* 09	J 10	COMMISSIONERS
Barbara Reese	E	P	A	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	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.
Susan Stanton	^	^	^	^	E	E	-	P	E	P	P	E	E	Comm. Maria Anderson
Michelle Moskowitz	E	P	P	E	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Laura Yusko	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Joanne Meagher	^	^	^	^	^	^	-	P	P	P	P	E	P	Board Appointee
Sondra Space	P	P	E	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	City Manager

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Kara N. Kautz, Historic Preservation Officer

A = Absent

P = Present

- = No Meeting

+ = Resigned

E = Excused

*** = Special Meeting**

^ = New Member

GUESTS: Susan Rodriguez, Donna Reno, Jacqueline Gonzalez-Touzet

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

Chair Yusko called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

A motion was made and passed to excuse the absence of Susan Stanton from the January 11, 2010 regular Board meeting.

A motion was made and passed to excuse the absences of Susan Stanton and Joanne Meagher from the Special Board Meeting held December 7, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 9 AND DECEMBER 14, 2009:

On page two of the November 9, 2009 minutes, the third sentence under the heading, Committee Reports, should read: A Christmas tree will be trimmed by the Board members, and the Coral Gables Garden Club will place holiday decorations throughout the House.

A motion was made and passed to approve the November 9, 2009 minutes as amended, and the December 14, 2009 minutes as written.

PRESENTATION AND PROPOSAL BY SLOW FOOD MIAMI:

Representatives of Slow Food Miami, a local chapter of an international organization that supports sustainable farming and local food education, and promotes celebration of cultural paths and food traditions. This group's goal for 2010 is to establish 25 gardens within the community in schools and public places.

The purpose of the presentation was to propose the concept of building an era and South Florida-appropriate heritage vegetable garden on Merrick House grounds as part of the 100th anniversary of the House. A community group will donate all plant materials, seeds, garden installation, irrigation, maintenance and programming. The presenters requested Board approval of this totally-donated project, and reviewed a displayed design of the garden prepared by local architect Jacqueline Touzet. As additional background, Ms. Kautz said the staff had provided a property survey, had met with Mayor Slesnick, the Public Works and Public Service departments, sited the proposed garden spot (near Althea Merrick's flower garden). Educational ideas and various uses for the vegetables were discussed.

Board members were extremely enthusiastic about the project, and viewed this as an opportunity to increase visitors to the House and generate additional community-based programming.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to support the Slow Food Miami project to establish an era and South Florida-appropriate heritage vegetable garden on the property as discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Holiday Open House 2009: Ms. Yusko praised event chairs Moskowitz and Reese for their leadership efforts, stating that attendance was greater than previous years. Food provided by the Young Patronesses of the Opera (YPO) was excellent, and they sold 25 of their cookbooks. Details to further refine the annual event were discussed.

HOUSE REPORT:

Ms. Kautz reported the following House activity for December 2009:

- Total visitors: 8 adults, one senior and all holiday open house visitors.
- Trust fund balance: \$31, 150.72 (after payments to Business Interiors)
- Rental: DAR, no problems;

An additional rental, previously approved by the Board, will occur the week of January 18, 2010;

A new application was received from the University of Miami School of Law to rent the House on Thursday, January 28, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for a cocktail reception and dinner for 80 guests. Ms. Kautz detailed to the applicant the substantial challenges attendant to an event and group of that size.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to deny the University of Miami application.

- Regarding the coral rock wall repair, Ms. Kautz collaborated with Public Works and Public Service, and the resulting proposed plan for the repair was displayed and reviewed. A large collection of harvested coral rock is available for the repair. Ms. Kautz will research the background of the removal of the original wall. A plan for the repair was displayed

A motion was made and unanimously approved to secure bids for repair of the coral rock wall in front of the House.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reupholstery Project: Ms. Kautz received a funding request from Business Interiors in the amount of \$2,510.11 to cover expenses of additional trim for additional fabric and trim.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the payment as requested to Business Interiors.

Signage: No report available.

Brochure: Ms. Kautz completed the edit and will forward the edited copy to Arva Parks to clarify information. Ms. Kautz will e-mail the draft to Board members. The brochure will be discussed at the February meeting.

Donation Policy: This issue will be addressed at the March Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

100th House Anniversary: Ms. Kautz reviewed events planned or under discussion for each month of 2010 as part of the year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the House. She will e-mail to Board members the list of events planned thus far.

Draperies: Ms. Kautz will ask Lucille McKey to recommend a drapery expert to advise about rehanging House draperies.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Gala Discussion: Ms. Reese requested Board input about hosting a gala in November 2010. Discussion topics included venue, cost, theme, sponsors, event types, fundraising and event dates. A less-formal event was generally favored. Ms. Reese will invite a caterer to attend the next meeting, and will research costs to rent the Coral Gables Women's Club, the Cocoplum Women's Club, the Coral Gables Museum Community Room and Merrick House.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 8, 2010, 8:45 a.m., Merrick House.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kara N. Kautz
Historic Preservation Officer