

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2009
Coral Gables Merrick House
907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	N 08	D 08	J	F	M	A	M	J	J*	A	S	S*	O	COMMISSIONERS
Barbara Reese	P	P	E	E	P	A	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Margaret Steele	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Susan Stanton	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	E	E	-	P	E	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Michelle Moskowitz	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	-	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Laura Yusko	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Joanne Meagher	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	-	P	P	P	Board Appointee
Sondra Space	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	City Manager

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Kara N. Kautz, Historic Preservation Officer
Simone Chin, Historic Preservation Administrator

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 8:55 a.m.

Minutes of September 14, 2009:

Ms. Moskowitz made a motion to approve the September 14, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

Personal Appearance:

Bruno Feijoo, Continental Marketing Group: Though scheduled to discuss signage, Mr. Feijoo was not able to attend.

Committee Reports:

Holiday Open House: Ms. Moskowitz presented and reviewed options for invitation postcards. Proposed copy was reviewed and edited. Ms. Kautz will provide the Board selection to the Public Affairs Department for review and approval. The deadline for placement of the order is the week of October 12. Gifts for children from Santa Claus were discussed. Ms. Meagher will order cellulose bags for cookies.

Fall Decorations: Appreciation was expressed to Ms. Meagher, Ms. Space, Ms. Steele and Ms. Stanton for decorating the House for Fall, and to Ms. Kautz for purchasing storage containers. After Fall decorations are removed and stored, the grounds will be cleaned prior to the holiday open house.

100th Anniversary Party: Board members requested information about the budget for the celebration of the House's 100th anniversary. Ms. Kautz will analyze the budget to determine funding for the year-long anniversary observance.

House Report: Ms. Kautz reported the following September House activities:

- Total visitors: 17 adults, 6 seniors
- Trust Fund balance: \$44,896.33
- Rentals: AIA held an event on September 24, 2009 with no issues.
- Public Works emptied and cleaned the attic, temporarily storing items in the second floor hallway until pests are exterminated. Ms. Kautz recommended storing nothing in the attic.
- Staff will begin second floor furniture re-placement to match existing records and prepare the second floor for a 2010 unveiling to the public.

Old Business:

House Brochure: Copy is being reviewed by Arva Parks and the Public Affairs Department. Goosepen Press revised the cover to eliminate truncation of the photograph of George Merrick's head. The Board then revised text, and will work on developing one additional paragraph before the next meeting.

Donation Policy: Revisions to the policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Coral Rock Wall Repair: Ms. Kautz and a representative of Public Works will examine the wall on October 8th to further identify engineering and repair issues.

Solomon Merrick Painting: Ms. Kautz will receive the framed painting on October 6th.

Traffic Sign: Ms. Kautz reported that a directional traffic sign was installed at the intersection of Coral Way and Toledo Street.

New Business:

Merrick House Docents: Ms. Meagher reported that docents were not present on Sunday, October 4th, when she was at the House and happened to meet two visitors from Miami Springs who arrived to tour the property. The need for signage indicating when the House is open, additional docents, docent training and materials was discussed. In addition to Jon Arthur, Ms. Meagher volunteered as a docent and will dress in the period when she serves in that capacity. It was suggested that the Board host an open house for potential docents.

Furniture Reupholstering Project:

From proposed fabric samples provided by Lucille McKey for reupholstering the fringed dining room chairs, a selection was made. Ms. Steele will convey the selection to Ms. McKey.

City Projects Update:

Ms. Kautz reported that the Country Club of Coral Gables agreement would be heard on second reading at the October 13 City Commission meeting.

Board Items:

Ms. Steele reported difficulty opening the screen door at the House, and recommended that handles on the refrigerator and freezer be adjusted. Cooling also needs to be adjusted in both appliances.

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Ms. Steele advised that she opposed the request made by a person to propose marriage to his girlfriend in the grotto because neighbors had agreed there would be no weddings or private functions held on the grounds.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 9, 2009, 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