



The City of Coral Gables

Historical Resources Department

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes of May 19, 8:30 a.m.

Coral Gables Merrick House

907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	J 13	J 13	A 13	S 13	O 13	N 13	D 13	J 14	F 14	M 14	M* 14	A 14	M 14	APPOINTED BY:
Michelle Moskowitz	-		P	A	P	P**	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	Mayor Jim Cason
Daisy Baez	-	P	P	P	E	P**	P	E	E	P	E	A	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marlin Ebbert	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Ana Lam			P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P**	P	P**	Commissioner Vince Lago
Laura Yusko	-	E	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Joanne Meagher	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	Board Appointee
Susan Rodriguez	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Dona M. Spain, Historic Preservation Officer

Kara N. Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer

A = Absent

P = Present

- = No Meeting

+ = Resigned Member

E = Excused

* = Special Meeting

^ = New Member

** Ms. Moskowitz left at 9:00 a.m.; Ms. Baez left at 9:40. Ms. Lam arrived at 8:55 a.m. Ms. Lam arrived at 8:50 a.m..

GUEST: Blake Sando, Coral Gables Bar Association

MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION: Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

Ms. Yusko called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and stated attendance for the record. Ms. Moskowitz stayed only long enough to announce her relocation to Broward County at the end of this week and her resignation from Board service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 14, 2014:

A motion was made by Ms. Baez, seconded by Ms. Ebbert and unanimously passed to approve the April 14, 2014 minutes as written.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Ebbert made a motion, seconded by Ms. Meagher and unanimously approved to excuse the absence of Ms. Moskowitz.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

APRIL 2014 HOUSE REPORT:

Total visitors in April: 19 adults, 9 seniors, 10 students, 1 youth, 1 child, plus 22 St. Philip's School students who toured April 16th with Ms. Yusko.

Trust Fund balance: \$20, 629.17 (expenditure account); \$413 (revenue account)

Rental request: Mr. Sando, President-Elect of the Coral Gables Bar Association requested rental of the porch and a portion of the grounds for the Association's October 4, 2014 annual installation dinner/cocktail reception event from 7 to 11 p.m., to be attended by approximately 100 people. The event would be catered, a tent would be erected on the grounds in case

of inclement weather, and a three-piece group would provide background music. Part of the plan for the evening is to have either a Board member or staff provide a 10-minute presentation about Merrick House. As issues were discussed, consensus was reached that Venetian Pool would be a better location for the event. Mr. Sando agreed to research the Venetian Pool as a venue, and asked if the Board would consider allowing the Association to conduct one of its late afternoon networking events at the House at a future date.

Ms. Ebbert made a motion to offer the Association an opportunity to conduct one of its networking events as described, and to decline the October 4th installation event. Ms. Baez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Lam made a motion to change the ending time for House outdoor events to no later than 10 p.m. Ms. Meagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Fund for exterior maintenance: \$4,940.00 (unchanged)

OLD BUSINESS:

Coral Gables Community Foundation: Ms. Kautz reported that a dedicated Merrick House fund had not been established at the Community Foundation, although the Foundation is happy to do so. It was agreed that current funds on hand (approximately \$700) are not sufficient to warrant a deposit with the Foundation. Staff will request an interpretation of House guidelines from the City Attorney regarding use of event sponsorship funds for House purposes.

Ms. Lam made a motion to place funds remaining from SOTPWG events (approximately \$700) in the Trust Fund. Ms. Ebbert seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Painting Restoration / Villager's Grant: Ms. Ebbert volunteered to prepare a Villager's grant to seek funds to cover the costs of restoring a painting, either one at the House that needs restoration, or one of the paintings donated by Mildred Merrick's estate. Restoration expert Rusty Levinson will review donated and existing paintings to provide estimates for restoration work.

Docent Recruitment Flyer: Staff will forward to Ms. Rodriguez a copy of the docent recruitment flyer she prepared last year. Ms. Rodriguez will replicate and distribute it throughout the community.

House Assessment: Discussion was held about the current status of the House assessment, the difference between estimated assessment needs and the funding allowance, and the program proposal prepared last year by Ms. Baez. The assessment estimate will be available for Board review at the next meeting.

As the City's public budget meetings will occur in September, it was agreed that a Board member will attend to represent the Board to advocate for moving forward with House assessment and repairs. Board members will contact their appointing City officials to make them aware of House needs. Ms. Baez will revise the original fundraising proposal when she has sufficient facts.

Twilight Hamper Picnic / Pat Clarke Proposal: Ms. Rodriguez will suggest that Ms. Clarke submit an event proposal to the Board for approval, and will also remind Ms. Clarke to consider daylight savings time and the difference that will make on twilight.

NEW BUSINESS:

South Miami Garden Club Tour: Ms. Ebbert relayed a request from Suzanne Brawner to schedule an April 7, 2015 South Miami Garden Club House tour. If scheduled, the individual charge will be \$3. In concept, the Board agreed to the tour this far in advance of the date requested, with the caveat that if restorative House work is underway at the time, the tour may not be possible.

Persian Rug – Runner: Ms. Kautz received an estimate of \$704 from Hilliard for cleaning and restoration of a 3' X 12' Persian Botheek runner, circa 1895, that was donated to the House by Mildred Merrick's estate.

Ms. Baez made a motion to approve cleaning and restoration of the rug by Hilliard as proposed. Ms. Lam seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2016 Gala – House Fundraiser: Ms. Baez proposed planning and executing a fundraising gala to benefit the House. It was agreed that the event should be planned for 2016. Funds raised would be dedicated to a specific purpose, which could be used for the long-discussed replacement of the coral rock wall around the perimeter of the House. Ms. Baez will present a detailed written proposal at the next meeting for review and approval.

Events Committee Meeting: To begin planning the 2014/2015 SOTPWG events (four) plus the annual holiday party, Ms. Rodriguez will schedule a meeting in July. It was agreed that underwriting opportunities would best be applied to the entire SOTPWG series of events. At least \$2,000 is needed for each event.

Ms. Rodriguez volunteered to chair the November 2014 event (Althea's Garden Party); Ms. Lam will chair the February 2015 event and will also chair the October 2014 event with Ms. Meagher.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

June 9, 2014, 8:30 a.m. at Merrick House. Ms. Ebbert and Ms. Meagher asked to be excused for the June meeting.

NO MEETING IN JULY.

August 11, 2014, 8:30 a.m. at Merrick House. Ms. Yusko asked to be excused for the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:51

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dona M. Spain", followed by a horizontal line.

Dona M. Spain
Historic Preservation Officer