



The City of Coral Gables

Historical Resources Department

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2015, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Coral Gables Merrick House
907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	F	M	M*	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY:
	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	
Amy Kutell^							-	P	P	E	E	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Daisy Baez	E	P	E	A	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	P	E	P	E	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Ana Lam	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Laura Yusko	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Joanne Meagher	P	P	A	A	P	E	-	E	P	P	P	P	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 Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer

A = Absent
 P = Present
 - = No Meeting
 + = Resigned Member
 E = Excused
 * = Special Meeting
 ^ = New Member

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

Ms. Yusko called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. and stated attendance for the record.

Ms. Baez and Ms. Meagher arrived after the start of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 8, 2014:

One correction to the minutes of December 8th: The spelling of Ms. Kutell's last name was incorrectly shown on page two, and will be corrected for the record.

A motion was made by Ms. Kutell to approve the December 8, 2014 meeting minutes with the noted correction of her last name. Ms. Baez seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Merrick Arts Festival, February 15, 2015: Ms. Kutell advised that most details for the event were set and/or scheduled, including:

- Coral Gables Preparatory Academy chorus;
- a guitarist to perform on the porch;
- two painters;
- Anhinga Clay Studio;
- (pending) participation by the Italian Consulate;
- wine and cheese;
- two food trucks;
- raffle;
- each child will receive a certificate of appreciation for participating;
- the top three winners of the art contest will receive one-day family passes for the Perez Art Museum;
- Mayor Cason will be invited to briefly address the audience;
- Books & Books will be invited to feature a table with books related to the event;

- rum cake and candle vendors will participate;
- Boy Scouts will present and raise the American flag.

Anticipating that event costs would be modest, Kutell requested approval of a gift of appreciation for each of the four participating teachers.

Ms. Lam made a motion to give four gifts (George Merrick book of poetry) to the participating teachers as requested. Ms. Ebbert seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

It was agreed that only one or two half hour formal tours (for a limited number of visitors) will be conducted (2-2:30 and 3-3:30 p.m.). The formal tours will be conducted by a docent if available that day. Ms. Yusko volunteered to prepare a tour narrative for Board members to use if a docent is not available. Self-guided will otherwise be available.

Gables Goes Green - April 12th Event: Ms. Meagher and Ms. Ebbert, as co-chairs, reported the following participation, either already scheduled or awaiting confirmation:

- Theme of the event will be Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (in celebration of Earth Month);
- Ms. Ebbert invited the Green Task Force to join forces with the Board for the event;
- Nancy Martini will speak about her approach to eco art;
- Julie Petrello Arch will speak about composting;
- Ms. Meagher will create posters of craft art projects using recycled materials;
- Chris Rupp will speak about Coral Gables Museum initiatives;
- a recycling truck will be on hand to accept for recycling electronics, eyeglasses, batteries and paint cans;
- recycling information will be available;
- the Rainbarrel Workshop will participate;
- empty paper towel and toilet tissue rolls needed for a children's recycling project;
- an idea table will feature items created of recycled materials;
- Coral Gables Congregational Church's Fair Trade Shop;
- vintage clothing shop participation;
- an organic jewelry display;
- a vendor who crafts usable items from discarded tires;
- the Dachshund Rescue of South Florida may participate.

2014 December Holiday Event: Ms. Yusko thanked everyone who participated for making the event a success, and requested suggestions for the 2015 holiday party. Suggestions include having additional Christmas music and also incorporating Hanukkah music; continuing to situate Santa Claus inside; band or musical performers should not block the front door of the House; St. Phillip's bell choir was excellent; plan to have a children's table set up for them to write their letters to Santa; and rethink where musicians are positioned on the porch.

HOUSE REPORT: December 2014

- Total visitors in December: 14 Adults; 7 Seniors; 6 Students; 0 Youth; 4 Children; plus walkthrough tours given during SOTPWG.
- Trust Fund Balance: \$20,663 (expenditure account); \$5,865 (revenue account).
- Rental requests: None new
- Roxy O'Neal Bolton Fund for exterior maintenance: \$4,939 (unchanged).

OLD BUSINESS:

Wicker furniture: The Board discussed period-appropriate wicker furniture for the front porch, and the need to review proposals from three vendors based on the same specifications. The number and style of pieces was discussed and ideas were sought to establish the number and type of pieces needed. Issues including securing the furniture to the floor, seating arrangements, and theft prevention were considered. Rocking chairs were dismissed

since they cannot be bolted to the floor. During discussion about quantity, Ms. Spain and Ms. Kautz agreed to examine the available space on the porch in consideration of appropriate furniture size and quantity. It was finally agreed that cushions were needed for seating (to only be used during events). Information will be sought for two loveseats, one on each side; four side tables, two on each side; and four chairs, two for each side of the porch. Three purchase options need to be obtained.

Richard Merrick Paintings: Ms. Spain has attempted to reach Yvonne Ferrer to discuss her proposal and credentials, but has not received a response to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Villagers House Use: Ms. Ebbert reported that one of the Villagers' members wants to play the piano during their event on Saturday, January 24th at the House. The piano will be checked for tuning.

Edible Garden Request: Ms. Ebbert relayed a request by Julie Arch to install an information stand containing edible garden brochures in front of the edible garden. The request was denied.

South Miami Garden Club Meeting: Ms. Ebbert will notify staff about the needs of the group, who will visit the House the first Tuesday in February, prior to the Board meeting.

Docents: During a discussion about the need for regularly-scheduled docents, a request was made to hire a part-time City employee to act as a tour guide on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Ms. Baez made a motion to explore the possibility of initiating a paid, part-time City employee to act as a tour guide on Wednesdays and Sundays. Ms. Ebbert second the motion, which was unanimously approved.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Monday, February 9, 2015, 2014, 8:30 a.m. at Merrick House.
Ms. Yusko gave notice that she will be away during the months of February, March and April, and again in June, July and August.

Ms. Ebbert made a motion to excuse the absence of Ms. Yusko for the February, March and April meetings. Ms. Lam seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historic Preservation Officer