

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14,, 2009
Coral Gables Merrick House
907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

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

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Kara N. Kautz, Historic Preservation Officer

A = Absent

E = Excused

P = Present

*** = Special Meeting**

- = No Meeting

^ = New Member

+ = Resigned

GUESTS: Betsy Adams, Susy Amerikan, Evelyn Budde

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

Chair Yusko called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m., and welcomed Ms. Stanton and Ms. Meagher to City Board service.

Minutes of June 15, 2009 Board Meeting:

Ms. Space made a motion to approve the June 15, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes of July 6, 2009 Board Meeting:

Ms. Space made a motion to approve the July 6, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

Personal Appearances:

Betsy Adams, Coral Gables Garden Club:

Ms. Adams introduced Garden Club President Susy Amerikan, and Evelyn Budde, project co-chair. She spoke about the Club's 20-year adopt-an-entrance program and the donation to the City of three entrances and the Merrick monument at a cost of \$1.2 million. The Club's current proposed project is a life-sized statue of Althea Merrick, envisioned to appear seated on a bench in her garden on Merrick House grounds. It is estimated to cost \$40,000 and can be crafted by The Foundry (crafted the statue of George Merrick). Club representatives are in process of meeting with various City advisory boards and Arva Parks to gather project input. Photos of Mrs. Merrick were displayed and design, clothing and age options discussed. Location of the statue will be determined by this Board. The project is anticipated to be completed three months after approval is gained and the deposit is made. A presentation is planned during the House's year-long 100th anniversary beginning in 2010.

Ms. Steele made a motion to accept the proposal of the Coral Gables Garden Club for a bench study of Althea Merrick as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lucille McKey:

Ms. Yusko reported that Ms. McKey was unable to attend today's meeting; however, she will review fabric samples with Board members. A tentative date to examine the samples was set for September 28th at 8:45 a.m., and several Board members expressed interest in participating.

Committee Reports:

Holiday Open House: Ms. Moskowitz distributed a proposed draft of the December 12 open house invitation, which was reviewed. The Young Patronesses of the Opera (YPO) will provide food and offer their cookbook for sale. Ms. Kautz will invite Jimmy Jay to act as Santa. Using jumbo postcards as invitations was suggested. Ms. Moskowitz and co-chair Ms. Reese met with Olga Baquero-Lima to review procedures and have divided responsibilities for the event.

100th Anniversary Party: Ms. Reese led discussion about budget issues related to the party, intended to both celebrate the anniversary and to raise funds. Options considered were venue, type of event, decorations, costs, attendee charge and use of the City trolley. Although enthusiasm was generated for hosting a cocktail reception at the House, electrical power and related issues could be a financial deterrent. A tentative date for the event is Saturday, November 13, 2010. Venue options will continue to be explored.

Fall House Decorating: The House will be decorated for the Fall on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 9 a.m.

House Report: Ms. Kautz reported the following June, July and August activities:

- Total visitors in June: 33 adults, 0 seniors, 4 students, 2 youth, 1 child; in July: 11 adults, 0 seniors, 1 student, 2 youth, 2 children; in August: the House was closed for floor refinishing.
- Trust Fund balance: \$45,358.03
- Rentals: None during the period. Two pending applications are AIA (September 24) and DAR for October and December 2009; January, February, March, April and May 2010; Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 20 to 30 people; \$50 rental fee per event.

Ms. Space made a motion to approve the September 24, 2009 AIA rental, which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Steele made a motion to approve the DAR rental over seven-month period as discussed, which was unanimously approved.

- Second Floor Renovation: Wood refinishing is complete. The color will deepen with age.
- Framer Michelle Reeves is working on framing the Solomon Merrick painting.

- Regarding the issue between Procurement and the Business Interiors/Lucille McKey, Ms. Kautz is awaiting commentary from the City Attorney.
- Ms. Vacca was honored for eight years of service to the City at the August 25, 2009 City Commission meeting. Board members agreed to send cards of appreciation to Ms. Vacca and Ms. Baquero-Lima.
- The House attic will be cleaned this week. Items will be stored in the hallway for Board examination. Storage containers and bales of straw (for Fall decorations) will be purchased by Ms. Kautz.

Old Business:

Coral Rock Wall Repair: Public Works provided a survey of the property used to delineate the wall repair, for which two bids were received. Public Works will provide additional engineering assistance.

Donation Policy: Revisions to the policy will be forwarded to the Board prior to the October meeting, at which time it will be reviewed.

House Brochure: Copies of a draft brochure was distributed. Text will be reviewed by Ms. Kautz, Ms. Yusko and Arva Parks. Printing specifications and the brochure draft will also be reviewed by the City's Public Affairs Department. Board members will forward any change suggestions to Ms. Kautz.

Signage: Ms. Kautz displayed a conceptual drawing of an affordable post-hanging sign proposed for installation, the bid for which is \$1,400. Placement needs to be determined. Ms. Kautz will coordinate wording and design with the sign company.

New Business:

Merrick House Update: Ms. Kautz provided copies of a House project update submitted to the City Manager.

100th Anniversary Monthly Events: A tentative schedule of events planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the completion of the House was distributed and reviewed. Board members will generate additional suggestions. When finalized, the schedule will be placed on the City's web site.

Board Elections – Chair and Vice Chair:

Ms. Steele made a motion to approve Ms. Yusko as Board Chair. There being no further nominations, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Steele made a motion to approve Ms. Space as Board Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, the motion passed unanimously.

Items from the Secretary:

Ms. Kautz reminded Board members of the Boards and Committees Seminar set for Friday, October 2, 2009 beginning at 9 a.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 5, 2009, 8:45 a.m., Merrick House.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Kara N. Kautz
Historic Preservation Officer