

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	O 23	N 23	D 23	J 24	F 24	M 24	A 24	M 24	J 24	J 24	A 24	S 24	O 24	APPOINTED BY
Bonnie Seipp	E	P	N	P	P	P	A	A	N	N	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Carmen Cason	P	P	O	P	A	P	A	P	O	O	E	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Mary Beth Burke Vice Chair	E	P	M	P	P	P	P	P	M	M	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Margaret Groves	E	E	E	P	#	P	P	P	E	E	E	E	E	Commissioner Melissa Castro
Alexis Ehrenhaft	P	P	E	P	A	E	E	P	E	E	P	E	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Genevieve Orr	P	E	T	P	P	A	P	P	T	T	P	P	P	Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Joanne Meagher Chairperson	P	P	I N G	P	P	P	P	P	I N G	I N G	P	P	P	Board-as-a-Whole

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; * = New Member; ^ = Resigned Member,
 - = No Meeting; # = Late meeting arrival.

STAFF: Anna Pernas, Historical Resources Director, Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer;
 Gay Bondurant, Docent Coordinator, Yvelisse Bonilla, Administrative Assistant.

RECORDING SECRETARY/PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Yvelisse Bonilla, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Chair Joanne Meagher. Attendance was stated for the record.

ROLL CALL:

In attendance were Ms. Cason, Ms. Ehrenhaft, Ms. Burke Chair Meagher, and Ms. Orr. Ms. Seipp joined the meeting at 9:18am.

OPENING STATEMENT: Excerpt from George Merrick's Poem, "A Grave in the Everglades"

By the rise of a palm-grown highland
 Far out in the Everglade,
 In a mound on a jungle island,
 Is a Seminole Warrior laid.
 There in the midst of the prairie,
 Desolate, forgotten, lone;
 'Neath a mound in a land most dreary
 The land he had thought his own.

The live-oaks are growing around it;
 And their roots are deep in the mound;
 A palm that years ago found it
 Reaches sixty feet up from the ground.
 A grave in the midst of the prairie
 With Palmetto-scrub overgrown;
 On an isle in a land most dreary,
 In the land he had thought his own.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Potted Palm Proposal – Carolina Castro from the Potted Palm joined the meeting and discussed holding a vintage market event at the Merrick House in the spring. The Market would have vintage vendors focused on housewares, art and furniture, live music, and food vendors. This event is scheduled for March 1, 2025, 10:00am – 5:00pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Seipp, seconded by Ms. Cason, to move forward with doing a board sponsored Coral Market Vintage Heritage and Vintage Heirlooms at the Merrick House and chose a date in the Spring of 2025. This motion passed by voice vote.

2. Merrick House Activity Report September 2024 - Ms. Bondurant read the September 2024 House Report. The report was shared with the Board in advance of the meeting and is included as an attachment to the minutes.
3. Electrical Issues – It was reported that some of the fixtures toward the front of the house (front bedrooms and hallway chandelier) are not working. Ms. Kautz submitted a work order to Public Works and will follow up.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Althea's Garden Brigade – The first event was on October 5, 2024. Ms. Orr was the board representative. There were 6 volunteers in attendance. Ms. Orr offered to provide garden gloves with the Merrick House logo for returning volunteers.
2. Veteran's Day Concert – Scheduled for Sunday, November 10, 2024, at the House. Ms. Meagher will contact the Symphonettes to run the popcorn machine. Guests will bring blankets; no chairs will be set up.

A motion was made by Ms. Burke, Seconded by Ms. Orr, to move forward with the purchase of a vintage looking popcorn machine for future Merrick House events. This motion passed by voice vote.

3. Holiday Open House – Choirs have been contacted. Coral Gables Elementary will not be ready. Board Member Cason will contact and advise on another school. Ms. Meagher to advise if the invite will be completed by Joey in Communications or elsewhere.
4. Restoration Work – The conservator has completed their cleaning work on the exterior of the chimney. The next step is for the roofer to permit and begin installation of the diverter.
5. Sunroom – Sheers are in the Spanish cabinet in the office. Chair Meagher has been looking for a small tension rod to fit the curtain.
6. Doorknobs – Staff is interested in returning to the proper area in Boston. Ms. Burke will drop them off at the Office.
7. Supplies – The House needs mugs, English brochures and poetry books.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS: None.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kara N. Kautz".

Kara N. Kautz

Assistant Historic Preservation Officer