



## The City of Coral Gables

### Historical Resources Department

### **CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING** **Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2015, 8:00 a.m.** **Coral Gables Merrick House** **907 Coral Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	
Amy Kutell^						-	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Daisy Baez	P	E	A	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	E	P	E	-	E	P	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	E	P	P	E	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Joanne Meagher	P	A	A	P	E	-	E	P	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  
 Emily Ahouse, Historic Preservationist

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. Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m. and stated attendance for the record. Ms. Lam arrived at 8:25 a.m.

#### MEETING ATTENDANCE:

A motion was made by Ms. Meagher to excuse the meeting absence of Ms. Baez. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kutell and unanimously approved.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JANUARY 12, 2015:

Two corrections were made to the January minutes: 1) page 1, Events Committee Reports, The Merrick Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point should read: Anhinga Clay Studio; 2) page 2, Gables Goes Green, 13<sup>th</sup> bullet point should read: vintage clothing shop participation.

A motion was made by Ms. Ebbert to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015 as corrected, seconded by Ms. Kutell and unanimously passed.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**February 15, 2015 Arts Festival:** Ms. Kutell reviewed event details, adding updates to the previous month's report. Issues discussed included display and promotional materials, arrangements for a Books & Books display, raffle items, water sales, gifts for participating teachers, student artwork, a chorus performance, displayed quilts and food vendors. Since Juan Riera cannot serve as a docent for House tours during the event, Ms. Ebbert volunteered to help. She also suggested avoiding a future event during President's Day weekend due to numerous community events that occur at the same time. Volunteer helpers during the event will be Dolly MacIntyre, Valerie Bauwens and Tine Haestbaek.

**April 12, 2015 Go-Green Gables Eco-Fair:** As co-chairs, Ms. Ebbert and Ms. Meagher updated initial plans for the event. Pet adoption representatives will be available at an information table, but foster families won't bring

animals available for adoption due to insurance issues. Other event features include a recycling truck, and a woman who crafts jewelry from natural food products and makes sustainable plant towers. Ms. Ebbert reported that, through the DEA, South Miami Pharmacy offers a prescription drug recycle service. Information will be available to encourage people to bring their no-longer-needed and leftover prescription drugs to the pharmacy for proper disposal.

HOUSE REPORT: January 2015: Ms. Kautz reported the following:

- Total visitors in January: 10 Adults; 11 Seniors; 12 Students; 0 Youth; 2 Children.
- Trust Fund Balance: \$26,528 (expenditure account); \$1,483 (revenue account).
- There is a potential project to be submitted for a Girl Scout Gold Award, proposed as creating room-by-room laminated placards for House self-tours. The project needs to be approved by the Girl Scout Council.
- Roxy O'Neal Bolton Fund: \$4,939 (unchanged).
- Rental Requests: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Villagers Event, Saturday, January 24, 2015: Ms. Ebbert reported that the event drew only 25-30 people, but was a successful porch gathering.

South Miami Garden Club Meeting: The Club met at the House, and Ms. Ebbert expressed appreciation for the narrative written by Ms. Yusko. The South Miami Garden Club donated \$50.

Porch Furniture: The Board discussed the benefits of stone garden benches versus wicker furniture. Stone benches are not easily removed, don't need cushions and may provide a practical solution for porch seating. Ms. Kautz described stone benches (and plaque attachments) used in Pinewood Cemetery, and the possibility of named bench donations. She advised waiting to purchase and install the benches until after House renovations are completed.

Ms. Ebbert made a motion to abandon the idea of wicker porch furniture and instead explore the purchase of a maximum of eleven stone garden benches to be placed on the wraparound porch of the House. Ms. Lam seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Meagher proposed an amendment to the motion, accepted by Ms. Ebbert and Ms. Lam, to underwrite the cost of the benches (approximately \$500 each) by offering bench dedication rights to interested people or groups. The motion and amendment was unanimously approved.

Paid Docent Position: At Ms. Rodriguez' request, Ms. Kautz said House docents are asked to volunteer twice monthly. Regarding the suggestion that the City hire a paid docent, Ms. Kautz suggested development of a structure that would apply to a paid docent or docent coordinator. Ms. Rodriguez described a part time paid docent job description suggested by Juan Riera, and read his detailed email. She will forward a copy. Board members will review the job description, think about how a position would be funded since an additional position is not in the Historical Resources Department's current budget, but could work toward the next budgeting cycle.

Renovation Update: Ms. Kautz reviewed the status of the renovation plans in progress. Ms. Rodriguez asked if an installation of outside speakers could be included in the renovation as part of the improvements.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Monday, March 9, 2015, 8:30 a.m., Merrick House.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

  
Dona M. Spain

Historic Preservation Officer