

CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

2327 Salzedo Street, 2nd Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	J 18	F 18	M 18	A 18	M 18	M 18	J 18	J 18	A 18	S 18	O 18	N 18	D 18	J 19	APPOINTED BY:
Ada "Adi" Busot	P	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	Mayor Raul Valdés-Fauli
Ana Lam	#	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	E	P	-	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Margaret Meeks	P	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Joanne Meagher	P	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	Comm. Frank Quesada
Barbara Reese	#	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	E	Comm. Michael Mena
Susan Rodriguez	P	E	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	A	E	-	P	City Manager
Nina Jarp*							-	-	-	-	P	P	-	E	Board-as-a Whole

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

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Director
Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
ElizaBeth Guin, Historic Preservation Coordinator
Laura Yusko, Merrick House Docent Coordinator
Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant

RECORDING SECRETARY/PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

GUESTS: Sally Jude, Florida Tree Society

The meeting was called to order by Chair Meagher at 8:45 a.m. and attendance was stated for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2018:

A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Lam to approve the minutes of November 5, 2018 as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

HOUSE RENTAL REQUEST: Ms. Jude relayed the Florida Tree Society's background and goals in having their annual Poinsettia Festival at the Merrick House on June 9th at 4 p.m. She stated that it would be a fundraising event to assist with scholarships and asked the Board for assistance with advertising and obtaining sponsors. She also requested that the rental fee be waived. Chair Meagher suggested making the event a tea event. Various questions were asked by the Board as to the expected attendance of the event and logistics. Ms. Jude stated that their idea would be to have it on the porch with a lecture being conducted. Ms. Yusko suggested perhaps having ice tea at the event.

Chair Meagher suggested having a Rock the Wood fundraiser, benefiting the projects for inside the Merrick House. The idea was to have woodworkers and banjo players at the event and perhaps combining the event with Ms. Jude's with a proceeds benefitting the Merrick House and the Florida Tree Society. It was the opinion of Ms. Rodriguez that only the Merrick House should benefit from such an event. The Board continued to discuss various possibilities with the event as well as possible dates such as during the summer time. Ms. Spain reminded the Board that they didn't meet during the summer months. Chair Meagher opinioned that the event could be held indoors with food served. Ms. Spain cautioned having food inside the House as it would set a precedent. Ms. Kautz stated that perhaps the sunroom could be used for such an event. Ms. Rodriguez suggested having some form of entertainment at the event. The Board continued their

lengthy discussion as to how the event would be handled. Chair Meagher suggested that Ms. Jude report back to her committee and return to the Merrick House Board at the future meeting date to further discuss details.

Ms. Meeks made a motion to tentatively approve the rental request from Florida Tree Society with the stipulation that the rental fee would be waived, however, expenses would have to be covered by the organization and only 50 guests could be allowed inside. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lam and unanimously approved.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Lam to excuse the absences of Ms. Jarp and Ms. Reese. The motion was unanimously approved.

HOUSE REPORT: January 2018

Ms. Kautz reported the following balances:

- Trust Fund Balance: \$26,989 (expenditure account), \$335 (revenue account)
- Roxy O'Neal Bolton Fund for exterior maintenance: \$4,939 (unchanged)

DOCENT REPORT: Ms. Yusko reported that the House had a good turn out with visitors during the weekend. Presently, it was reported that there were 10 docents in the program. Ms. Yusko noted that a Docent Tea Party would be happening at Colette Worm's home and invited the Board and Staff to attend. Ms. Yusko's efforts were praised by Chair Meagher. Ms. Yusko praised the Board for a successful Holiday Open House.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board inquired about the English brochures for the Merrick House. Ms. Yusko stated that edits were sent to Ms. Kautz for review. Ms. Kautz relayed that she was working with the printer and that in meantime could have 100 brochures printed.

Ms. Yusko suggested having a sign outside the House informing guests that it was open. Ms. Meeks suggested putting a new sign on the swale. Ms. Spain stated that there would be issues with the Zoning Code. Ms. Meeks volunteered to research a sign stand to present at the next meeting. Ms. Yusko suggested making a weather proof poster.

Mayor Dorothy Thompson arrived at 9:54 a.m.

D.A.R. RENTAL REQUEST: Mayor Thompson relayed that she was representing the D.A.R. and further added that the group was requesting to meet at the Merrick House once a month as done in previous years.

A motion was made by Ms. Lam and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez to allow the D.A.R. to resume their monthly meeting at the Merrick House. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Thompson voiced her sincere thanks to the Board on behalf of the D.A.R.

Mayor Thompson left at 10:06 a.m.

CORAL ROCK WALL: Ms. Spain stated that she had reached out to Public Works but was still waiting on a response.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Rodriguez proposed a Madagascar event in June. Ms. Spain stated that she liked the idea of the Rock the Wood as a fundraiser. Ms. Kautz informed the Board of her grant application to The Villagers but had yet to receive an official response as to whether or not it was approved. Ms. Lam asked if applying for a state grant was an option. Ms. Kautz informed the Board that a state grant might be possible but would an overall proposal for the entire wood work.

Ms. Meeks inquired about the paper artwork restoration and suggested using \$3,000 from the Trust Fund to complete the preservation of the artwork. Ms. Rodriguez reminded the Board that the funds in the Trust Fund had been earmarked for the restoration of the coral rock wall. Chair Meagher stated that she was in favor of using Trust Fund to help with the artwork and asked what items required immediate attention. Ms. Yusko explained that the pieces would have to be

reframed and re-matted and recommended starting with the Althea pastel followed by the Eunice pastel and seeing how much is left over after those projects are completed.

ROCK THE WOOD FUNDRAISER: It was suggested by Ms. Yusko that perhaps there might be interested from several organizations of wood workers that had worked at Fairchild Garden in the past. The Board discussed that idea of having the vendors pay \$100 to have a table at the event. The idea of having an entrance fee was discussed and Ms. Rodriguez suggested having a series of workshops throughout the day. The lengthy discussion continued amongst Board members with a suggestion at having two different levels of vendors, contractor level and the vendor table.

Possible dates were discussed to hold the event, ranging from the first week of November to February of 2020. Ms. Meeks stated that more time would be needed to plan such an event at a grand scale. A smaller event was also discussed for the spring which included the use of the maypole. The idea of having it as an Ice Cream Social was discussed having fun kid's games and lemonade with the dates April 28th or May 5th favored.

Ms. Spain suggested having an event similar to Antiques Road Show.

The Board continued to discuss possible future event dates. After lengthy discussion, the Board favored April 28th. Ms. Rodriguez suggested having music at the event and a food truck vendor with ice cream, while Ms. Meeks suggested having a barber shop quartet or a banjo player to provide the musical entertainment.

A motion was made by Ms. Meeks and seconded by Ms. Busot to hold the Spring Fling event on April 28th. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 11th, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.; Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department, 2327 Salzedo Street, 2nd Floor

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director