



CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

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

MEMBERS F M A M M J J A S O N D J F APPOINTED BY:
18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 19 19

Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

Ada "Adi" Busot	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	E Mayor Raul Valdés-Fauli
Ana Lam	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	E	P	-	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	P Comm. Michael Mena
Susan Rodriguez^	E	P	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	A	E	-	P	^ City Manager
Nina Jarpe*										P	P	-	E	P Board-as-a Whole

P 305.460.5093

E hist@coralgables.com

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
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: Marlin Ebbert, Nancy Martini, Colette Worm-Docent Volunteer,

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 JANUARY 7, 2019:

A motion was made by Ms. Lam and seconded by Ms. Jarpe to approve the minutes of January 7, 2019 as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

HOUSE REPORT: February 2019

Ms. Kautz reported the following balances:

- Trust Fund Balance: \$26,989 (expenditure account), \$695 (revenue account)
- Roxy O'Neal Bolton Fund for exterior maintenance: \$4,939 (unchanged)

DOCENT REPORT: Ms. Yuskos reported that the Docent core presently has 10 members who are sharing the responsibilities of giving House tours on Saturdays and Sundays. She proudly reported that the House had over 120 visitors during the month of January.

Barbara Reese arrived at 8:45 a.m.

HOUSE SIGN: Ms. Meeks reported that she found a sign for \$56 and presented the Board with a sample of the sign stating that it was 18" x 24" horizontal. Ms. Kautz stated that Staff would take care of purchasing the sign and getting the material printed once it was approved.

CRAFTSMAN IN-RESIDENCE: Chair Meagher introduced Nancy Martini, an eco-artist. Ms. Martini informed the Board that she had done artist residences in the past in various places and was interested in doing a craftsman residence at the Merrick House. She presented her proposal, stating that craftsman could apply to work at the Merrick House and host workshops teaching the public skills such as sanding, priming, or painting among other skills.

Ms. Spain stated that while it was a great idea, space could not be provided for a residency and suggested having it as a one day event open to the public. Ms. Lam was in agreement. Ms. Jarp inquired as to how the event would be funded and the Board discussed logistics. Ms. Kautz commented that it would have to first go through the City Attorney's Office and insurance would have to be provided by the artists. Ms. Spain suggested that the Board discuss the crafts options for the event at the next meeting.

EARTH DAY: Marlin Ebbert introduced herself to the Board, stating that she had served on the Merrick House Board for a number of years. She informed the Board that she had been made aware of their Spring Fling event and had an interest in having an additional event tied into it. Ms. Ebbert proposed having a guest speaker to discuss summer vegetable planting and offered her assistance for the event. Ellen Book was suggested as a possible speaker to speak on composting and other gardening topics.

It was suggested by Ms. Meeks to have a landscaping architect speak at the event. The Chair agreed that the event was a good fit. Ms. Worm suggested having a poetry contest.

A motion was made by Ms. Lam and seconded by Ms. Jarp to move forward with Spring Fling and have it be connected to Earth Day. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board continued to discuss the event possibly having five vendors each with different presentations including a water barrel demonstration. The maypole was discussed and Ms. Yusko stated that the House had a flag pole that could possibly be used. Ms. Kautz suggested using a tetherball game pole. The Chair suggested having a banjo player. Ms. Lam suggested having a compost demonstration and rain barrels. Ms. Martini suggested having a presentation with blue bottles and hanging them from the trees.

Ms. Lam left at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Meagher asked Ms. Worm to coordinate and contact the various schools for the poetry contest and thanked Ms. Martini for attending. The Chair also suggested having a monthly event teaching the public about various crafts on the porch and possibly charging admission.

Ms. Reese reminded the Board that the money raised at the 100th year celebration had been earmarked for the coral rock wall. Ms. Spain stated that those funds were separate from the departmental budget. Ms. Lam inquired as to the process and what steps would have to be taken in order to accomplish the task. Ms. Spain explained that it was submitted to the Public Works Department to apply as a need in their budget. Ms. Lam suggested finding a sponsor and/or applying for a grant from the Villagers. Ms. Spain stated that Staff would investigate.

Ms. Spain informed the Board that she received a phone call from Robert Ruano from Bike Walk Coral Gables about touring the Merrick House on September 15th as part of their Bike Walk Coral Gables Event. Ms. Yusko stated that she would arrange the tour.

The Chair reminded the Board to think about possible workshops and vendors for the next meeting.

DONATION: Ms. Yusko informed the Board that the House had received a donation from Ellen Kellner. The pieces were two hand-painted French porcelain vases and one hand-painted French porcelain perfume bottle with stopper. She requested approval to accept the pieces.

A motion was made by Ms. Meeks and seconded by Ms. Reese to approve the donation on the condition on getting the paperwork back. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 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 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director

