



CORAL GABLES MERRICK HOUSE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2019 8:30 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
2327 Salzedo Street, 2nd Floor, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	J 18	J 18	A 18	S 18	O 18	N 18	D 18	J 19	F 19	M 19	A 19	M 19	J 19	J 19	APPOINTED BY:
Ada "Adi" Busot	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	E	P	-	P	Mayor Raul Valdés-Fauli
Ana Lam	-	-	-	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Margaret Meeks	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Carmen Cason													-	P	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Barbara Reese	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	E	-	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Alexis Ehrenhaft*													-	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Nina Jarp	-	-	-	-	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	A	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
 Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant

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

GUESTS: Joanne Meagher

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MAY 13, 2019:

A motion was made by Ms. Lam and seconded by Ms. Busot approve the minutes of May 13, 2019 as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

HOUSE REPORT:

Ms. Kautz reported the following balances:

- Trust Fund Balance: \$29,179 (expenditure account), \$2,198 (revenue account)
- Roxy O'Neal Bolton Fund for exterior maintenance: \$4,939 (unchanged)

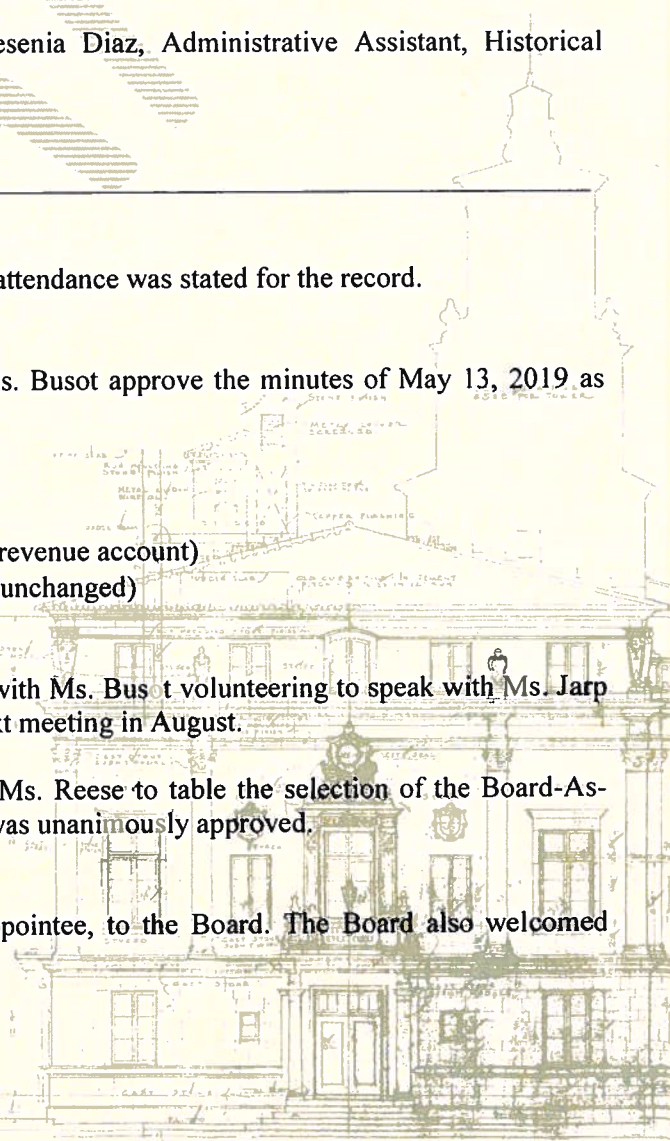
BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE APPOINTMENT:

The Board discussed the Board-As-A-Whole appointment at length with Ms. Busot volunteering to speak with Ms. Jarp at a later date. It was decided that the voting would be done at the next meeting in August.

A motion was made by Ms. Busot and seconded by Ms. Reese to table the selection of the Board-As-A-Whole-Appointee until the next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Lam welcomed Carmen Cason, Commissioner Fors's new appointee, to the Board. The Board also welcomed warmly Alexis Ehrenhaft.



Halloween Event: Ms. Meagher informed the Board that she had been talking with past Board member Susan Rodriguez about the Halloween event in previous years. Ms. Lam explained that in the past the Coral Gables Fire Department provided food and informed the Board that Ms. Cason was instrumental in obtaining donations from vendors such as B.J.s.

The Board discussed ideas for this year's Halloween event. Ms. Lam will reach out to a dance instructor at the Adult Activity Center to gauge their interest and availability in participating. The idea of having a flash mob dance was discussed. Ms. Busot suggested having music from The Addams Family to accompany the dance. Ms. Meagher suggested having an activity with doughnuts on a string. The idea of having party favors for the children was discussed with glowsticks being a possibility.

It was decided by the Board after lengthy discussion that the event would take place on Sunday, October 27th from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. as part of the SOTPWG event series. The Board was informed that in the past there had been a contest with scarecrows crafted by different organizations. Ms. Lam offered to contact the Firefighters. Ms. Cason suggested drafting out a list of duties and distributing to the Board. Ms. Lam stated that she would reach out to Ms. Rodriguez and would work on an event task list for the meeting in August. Ms. Meeks volunteered to do the graphics.

Ms. Reese asked what the money received from the event would fund. Ms. Meeks reminded the Board that the coral rock wall was not completed. Ms. Reese stated that money had been collected in the past for this project. Ms. Spain suggested that additional funding could be allocated from the Board events towards the construction of the coral rock wall.

DOCENT REPORT: Ms. Kautz reported that the House was closed for the month of July. Ms. Meagher reported that a group from the Coral Gables Museum Summer Camp and group of children from a performing arts camp toured the house. Ms. Meagher reported that there was a hole in the roof which she noticed while conducting a tour. Ms. Spain stated that Staff would investigate.

Ms. Reese inquired if the piano in the House was original and Ms. Kautz informed that the original piano had been an upright piano. There was discussion about the repair of the piano's player mechanism. Ms. Kautz reported that Jessie was working with a vendor looking for the parts to repair it.

RENTAL REQUEST: Ms. Kautz presented a House rental application from Laura Yusko on behalf of the Villagers for their general meeting on Friday, September 27th between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. with approximately 50 attendees. Ms. Yusko will provide set up and tear down for the meeting and hopes to use the opportunity to show the group the results of conservation work (financed with a Villagers grant) on three Merrick artifacts. In addition to the use of the House, the request asked for the waiver of the rental and security fees.

A motion was made by Ms. Reese and seconded by Ms. Busot to approve the rental request including the waiver of the security and rental fees. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Coral Rock Wall: The Board discussed the monies already raised as well as other possible uses of the Board's funds. Ms. Lam suggested using the funds to renovate the kitchen. Ms. Reese reminded the Board that the funding had been collected for the coral rock wall and should go towards that purpose. Ms. Lam then suggested applying for a grant for additional funds. Ms. Spain stated that if a grant is applied for it should be a state grant and explained the process. She stated that a grant could not be applied for now as the City has already applied for one in the current grant cycle.

Ms. Spain reminded the Board that the Trust Fund money could only be used for special projects and not the maintenance of the House.

Ms. Meagher suggested a possible individual that could work on the coral rock wall at a low cost and would provide further information at a later date. She also informed the Board that she would continue to attend the Merrick House meetings.

The Board then continued to discuss the coral rock wall at length. Ms. Kautz stated that she would try and provide a quote at the next month's meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Reese and seconded by Ms. Meeks to continue to allocate funding from House events to go towards the funding of the wall. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARD ITEMS: Ms. Kautz informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Department had inquired if we wanted any picnic benches on the grounds at no cost. The Board favored the idea.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 12th, 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
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director