

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS
OFFICE OF PARK PLANNING**



**MARJORY STONEMAN
DOUGLAS HOUSE**

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING
SUMMARY**

Marjory Stoneman Douglas House
The Barnacle Historic State Park
DEP Stakeholder Meeting Staff Report

A stakeholder meeting was held to receive public input on the planning priorities and long-term management goals for the preservation and protection of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas House at Coconut Grove Sailing Club on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018

Twenty-five stakeholders attended the meeting representing a cross section of community and conservation interests including adjacent landowners, and neighbors. Those in attendance included representatives from the Dade Heritage Trust, the Land Trust of Dade County, the National Park Service, the City of Miami, the Biscayne Nature Center, Tropical Audubon, the Villagers, and Friends of the Everglades. Attending staff were John Maehl, Don Bergeron, Katrina Boler, Jessica Cabral, Ellen Andrews, Diane Martin, and Sine Murray.

Ms. Murray began the meeting with an overview of the meeting objectives and background on the acquisition of the House. Each stakeholder introduced themselves and the organization or interest they represented. Ms. Murray then provided an overview of the planning process for Florida State Parks.

Ms. Murray then reviewed the day's activities and prepared the group for travel to the house. Stakeholders were divided into four groups and each stakeholder received a worksheet. During the visit to the house, stakeholders were asked to individually record the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) they observed on the worksheet and discuss them as a group during the tour of the property.

Upon arrival at the property, Park Services Specialist Jessica Cabral provided the group with the history of the house and background on the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Park Manager, Katrina Boler provided the group with an overview of management activities that have occurred at the property since 2007. and presented information on the current condition of the house and grounds.

Neighbors brought up their concerns about park personnel dumping yard waste from the Barnacle on the grounds of the house and that this was particularly problematic after Hurricane Irma. They presented photos of the dumping. There was further discussion about the overall maintenance of the grounds. DRP staff indicated the property line between state property and the adjacent vacant property that was owned and maintained by the Land Trust of Dade County. Additional discussion occurred about past plans for the property and the challenges of inviting public access without disrupting the character of the existing neighborhood and negatively impacting the neighbors.

Ms. Murray then encouraged the groups to tour the house and complete their SWOT worksheet. After the tour, there was a brief question and answer session. Ellen Andrews talked about the different designations for historic properties and Sally Jude provided background on the original acquisition of the house.

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The group returned to the sailing club and Ms. Murray led a group discussion on the potential strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats that were identified by the stakeholders. A summary of this discussion is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1. SWOT Analysis Marjory Stoneman Douglas House

INTERNAL	<p>Strengths</p> <p>Her image/house represents who she was</p> <p>Collection of personal effects/furnishings</p> <p>Unique design of the house/architecture</p> <p>In original location</p> <p>Residential context</p> <p>Mature trees</p> <p>National landmark status</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>Modern appliances</p> <p>House condition</p> <p>Property usage</p> <p>House location on Lot</p> <p>Receives floodwater</p> <p>Limited convenient access</p> <p>House is small</p> <p>Not universally accessible</p> <p>“Curb Appeal”</p> <p>Unhappy neighbors</p> <p>Age of the house</p> <p>Far from services (i.e. restaurants)</p> <p>In quiet residential area</p> <p>Different ownerships</p>
EXTERNAL	<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Interpretive opportunities (her story, range of options)</p> <p>Interpretive life in Coconut Gove in the 20s</p> <p>Marjory’s Legacy</p> <p>Restoration of green Space/Garden atmosphere</p> <p>Curate to period of interpretation</p> <p>Limited scheduled small group tours</p> <p>Virtual tours/alternate interpretation</p> <p>Involve design students in restoration</p> <p>Make the house an asset to the neighborhood</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>Storm damage</p> <p>Poor maintenance of house and grounds</p> <p>House could be impacted by development</p> <p>Lack of adequate funding</p> <p>Lack of political will to secure funding</p> <p>Lack of consensus on plan</p> <p>Change in neighborhood character</p> <p>Loss of privacy</p> <p>Crime/vandalism</p> <p>Declining property values</p>

After the SWOT group discussion, Ms. Murray then asked each group to develop a Vision Statement for the future of the house and from that Vision Statement identify three top priorities that need to be addressed in the next two years and three management objectives that should be achieved over the next ten years. Each group presented their vision statement and management priorities.

Group 1

- Vision: “Preserve Marjory’s legacy through the house”
- Management Priorities:

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- Control Access/Limited Visitation
- No residents on site promote historical context and develop house museum
- Protect neighborhood privacy
- Provide specialized events and tour
- Develop friends group

Group 2

- Vision: "Unique opportunity to visit the historic home of an important women who made a difference in our history and continues to inspire future generations."
- Management Priorities:
 - Preserve the cultural landscape (Grading)
 - Develop a strategic plan that identifies funding needs and establishes priorities
 - Utilize technology and virtual learning
 - Complete restoration of the house and grounds
 - "Writer in residence" program
 - Establish Friends Group

Group 3

- Vision: *This group focused on management priorities*
- Management Priorities:
 - Combine the state property with the property owned by the Land Trust of Dade County
 - Preserve and restore the house
 - Curate the contents that were left with the house
 - Develop limited access in concert with the neighborhood
 - Develop virtual tour/documentary on Marjory's life
 - Develop and operational plan that identifies funding sources

Group 4

- Vision: "Preserve and maintain the historic home of Marjory Stoneman Douglas; develop low-impact programming consistent with the character of the neighborhood to interpret her legacy."
- Management Priorities:
 - Reconcile the two properties under one ownership (State and Land Trust)
 - Develop strategic plan for natural areas and the building including the former Cole property
 - Restoration of the house
 - Restoration of the grounds
 - Develop plan of use in concert with the neighborhood

During the follow-up discussion group consensus emerged around the following items:

- A top priority was to develop a strategic/operation plan that identifies possible funding sources and establishes management priorities.
- The house should be preserved and restored in its current context

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- Develop limited public access in conjunction with the neighborhood
- The two adjoining properties (State and Land Trust) should be under one ownership

Ms. Murray explained that the input gathered from the meeting would be carefully considered by DRP as long-term management of the house is considered. The group discussed next steps and indicated a preference to build on the momentum of the day's events by continuing to work together. The group expressed interest in working directly with each other at that local level as well as working with representatives of the DRP. Regarding next steps, Ms. Murray indicated that this was the beginning of the planning process and that a formal management plan for the property would need to be submitted for approval in the fall of 2019. Ms. Murray assured the group that DRP would involve stakeholders throughout the process and that no decisions would be made without public input. Ms. Murray thanked everyone for their participation.