

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NUMBER 00-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, ADDRESSING THE PLANNED PARKING LOT AT BOWDITCH; PROVIDING FINDINGS; RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners appear to have changed direction and are considering the addition of parking spaces at Bowditch; and,

WHEREAS, a governments promise is not binding on future governing boards; and,

WHEREAS, credibility in government continues to be a subject of public concern; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a public hearing on August 28, 2000 and September 11, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Findings. It is the finding of the Town Council that:

- a. At the time of acquisition of the land the purchase was justified by preventing commercial development.
- b. The county promised the construction of boat landings; fishing docks; boardwalks; volleyball courts; a playground; a stage and amphitheater; and observation tower and interpretative center and an extensive picnic area with 24 pods of picnic tables.
- c. Swimming at the beach off of Bowditch is unsafe because of the strong current.
- d. The immediate neighborhood of the park has serious traffic constraints.
- e. The approach road to the park is deteriorating
- f. There are few pedestrian friendly opportunities through this area for walking or biking.
- g. The traffic impact of the Times Square Pedestrian Mall adversely impacts the access to the park.
- h. While the Town has a master plan for improvements on Estero Blvd., the Town does not have the resources to do the engineering or the improvements.
- i. The carrying capacity of the park was based upon improvements that have not been completed and is greatly exaggerated.
- j. The park has great value to the County as a preserve because of its unique habitat.
- k. Parking is available off site at Old San Carlos, across from the Edison Beach House the Bay front park and the proposed Helmerich garage.
- l. The additional docks, proposed by the county, at the park will make it more accessible by water taxi.

m. A possible public-public joint venture between the County and the Town would recognize the invaluable role that two regional parks and the Times Square Pedestrian Mall play with regard to the economic vitality of our community.

Section 2. Recommendations. The Town Council recommends that:

a. The County build those items in paragraph b. before assessing the need for additional parking because:

- (1) there are significant additional parking options in the area
- (2) the park has limitations to carrying capacity based on what was really built and the dangerous swimming area
- (3) the park has great value as a preserve and passive park and that value should not be diminished by over-utilization of the park.

b. The county continue the level of service by trolley to the park.

c. The County agree to participate financially with the Town in the master planning and construction of necessary improvements to north Estero Blvd. so that better pedestrian and bicycle access is provided and to assist the Town in development a better solution to the truck loading problem in front of Lynn Hall Park and the access problems posed by two regional parks.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Fort Myers Beach Town Council.

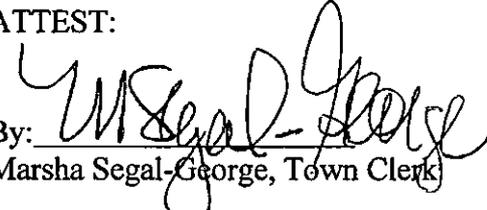
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Fort Myers Beach Town Council upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

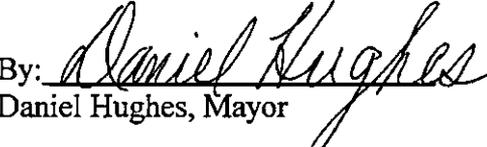
Anita T. Cereceda	<u>aye</u>
Daniel Hughes	<u>aye</u>
Garr Reynolds	<u>nay</u>
Ray Murphy	<u>aye</u>
Terry Cain	<u>aye</u>

APPROVED this 11th day of September, 2000.

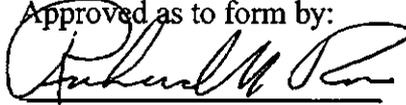
ATTEST:

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By: 
Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

By: 
Daniel Hughes, Mayor

Approved as to form by:


Richard V.S. Roosa, Town Attorney