

**MINUTES**  
**BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS**  
**ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)**  
Town Hall - 2525 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
Monday, July 13, 2020

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Simpson.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Becky Bodnar, Barbara Hill, Janna Holmes, Lee Melsek, Betty Simpson and Karen Woodson.

Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Alison Giesen, Recreation Campus Manager Sarah Mayher and Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley.

DRMP Project Manager Paul Benvie, Ryan Richards from RG Architects and Matt Horton from Ensite.

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

Stakeholders: Kathy Ebaugh; Executive Director, Facility Planning and Development, Karen Manzi from the Lee County School District, Jesse Lavender and Jason Lamey with Lee County Parks and Recreation, Denise Monahan; Friends of Bay Oaks, Patrick Vanasse and Charlie Whitehead with Little League.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.**

**IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (microphones cut in and out)**

**DRMP Introduction**

Mr. Benvie utilized PowerPoint to discuss the history of the project. He noted the end goal was to enhance the community's park system. Director O'Riley pointed out the parcel of land owned by the school board.

Ms. Monahan requested details regarding access to Bay Oaks. Mr. Benvie described the accesses on the screen. Ms. Monahan questioned why they were constructing a Welcome Center rather than just great signage. Mr. Benvie indicated they could have a Welcome Center with a presence on Estero Blvd. or a grand entrance and allow vehicle access. He added that the building would be approximately \$1 million and they could plan to build it in the future. The entire project was estimated to cost \$5.5 million.

Mr. Whitehead questioned whether Lee County was discussing County funding or programming funding. He received a negative answer. BORCAB Member Melsek noted that Lee County shared costs with Sanibel for lights in their ball field. Director Kathy stated that they made a land donation and were discussing maintenance for the playground area. She noted that the parking lot had to be secured during the school day and she requested that the Town vacate their

right of way so they could secure the property in perpetuity. She remarked that their perimeter had to be protected and they had to make sure there was an overlay zone to prevent public access while school was in session. She mentioned installing electronic access to the shared property. She proposed that the bicentennial mural be connected to the new theme. Mr. Benvie discussed the three proposed buildings, programming needs, AstroTurf on the ball fields, a bandshell with acoustics, surface for playgrounds, fitness trail, disc golf, parking and a kayak launch. Discussion was held regarding scheduling the ball fields for different age groups and different uses. BORCAB

Member Melsek noted that the new design was not just for sports, but was intended to include a place for the community to gather.

Ms. Monahan discussed the cost of the design. BORCAB Member Hill reviewed the history of the project and funding considerations. A representative from Lee County stated that they were willing to work with the Town regarding ownership of one property and potentially partnering with the Town concerning the property at Matanzas Pass Preserve.

Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce President Jackie Lyszak discussed the lack of senior facilities and the lack of programming. She felt that more than \$5.5 million would be required. Mr. Whitehead questioned how the facility would be marketed. Director O'Riley responded that the Town hired Social Media & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Dexter to manage marketing. Ms. Monahan reiterated that they had to make sure the entrance was done well to attract people to the facilities.

Director O'Riley encouraged the community to send emails with their ideas, suggestions and comments. She noted the 30% design would be presented in September or October.

Mr. Monahan questioned constructing one large building instead of two. Mr. Benvie replied that they could look at that option. Discussion was had regarding one basketball court versus two.

Town Manager Hernstadt discussed funding and phasing. BORCAB Member Melsek commented that they would be discussing names for the buildings at their next meeting and he invited the community to submit ideas.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS – no items.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to adjourn the meeting; second by BORCAB

VOTE: Barbara Hill. Motion passed unanimously.

*Janna Holmes*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ with/without changes. Motion by Barbara Hill.  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: *Beth Johnson*

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