

MINUTES
BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS
ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)
Town Hall
2525 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Special Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chair Simpson.
Members present: Beth Cherry, Barbara Hill, Janna Holmes, Lee Melsek, Betty Simpson, Holly Sweet and Karen Woodson.
Staff: Recreation Campus Manager Sarah Mayher
Council Liaison: Dan Allers (via phone due to illness)

Consensus was reached to allow Liaison Allers to participate via phone.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 3, 2020

MOTION: BORCAB Member Holmes moved to approve the minutes; second by BORCAB Cherry

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Band Shelter, Usage and Design

Manager Mayher encouraged members to submit photos or drawings of band shells for the design team. Paul Benvie from DRMP noted in an email that they looked for ways to complete the project on budget. Manager Mayher reminded members that if they added anything to the design, they would have to take something out. BORCAB Member Melsek indicated that he heard there was an extra million dollars at the recent Town Council meeting. He questioned the cost of the band shelter and the building. Manager Mayher stated that any questions for Mr. Benvie should be sent to her to forward. BORCAB Member Melsek suggested that they meet with Council to discuss what they designed initially and that the previous Council supported their plan. Manager Mayher remarked that BORCAB Members could vote to allow BORCAB Member Melsek to speak at a Council meeting under Advisory Committee Items and Reports.

BORCAB Member Melsek questioned how they could cut or add anything without knowing the costs. BORCAB Member Melsek read a letter he intended to present to

Council. He discussed lobbying Council for what they wanted. BORCAB Member Hill pointed out that they worked on a long-term plan with phases to complete the project as new funds became available. She noted that the phases seemed to be eliminated in the current design. Liaison Allers explained the disconnect in communication between BORCAB and Council. BORCAB Member Sweet discussed a lack of transparency. She agreed it was difficult to change anything without knowing the costs. Consensus was reached to permit BORCAB Member Melsek to read his letter at the next Council meeting on December 7, 2020.

Liaison Allers explained that their original plans had to be cut due to budget constraints and staff tried to include as much as possible. Manager Mayher directed Members to the overall data collection handout regarding the current concept. BORCAB Member Melsek questioned Liaison Allers concerning the extra million dollars. He replied that although there was technically an extra million dollars, the Council did not appear to want to add it to the Bay Oaks budget. BORCAB Member Melsek suggested they persuade Council to add it to Bay Oaks. He questioned whether the Town was aggressively applying for state and federal grants. Liaison Allers will follow up.

BORCAB Member Hill stated that they would have to design something that met their needs today and evaluate plans. BORCAB Member Melsek discussed the lack of transparency to Liaison Allers. He felt that Mr. Benvie should have been paid to attend the meeting. Liaison Allers stated that phases were included in the original plan, but due to the budget, Council tried to consolidate as many items as they could without phasing the project. BORCAB Member Sweet questioned why BORCAB was not involved with the changes. BORCAB Member Melsek felt that the Town Manager disrespected BORCAB with his comment at a Council meeting. BORCAB Member Woodson suggested removing the Town Manager from the conversation and deal solely with Council and Mr. Benvie.

Chair Simpson stated that steps were taken without the knowledge of BORCAB. She discussed the importance of including phases to complete their long-term goal.

Liaison Allers stated that he would bring up a joint meeting request at the next M&P meeting.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to look at items A-D for discussion as part of a larger question of the plan that was presented based on budget and current needs and they were not in favor of the current plan; second by BORCAB Member Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Roof, Usage and Design
- C. Interior Recommendations
- D. Exterior Recommendations
- E. Bay Oaks Redevelopment Public Information Handout

Manager Mayher noted the handout included information from the community. She stated the Town's website was updated monthly with a top ten list of items.

Discussion was held regarding the original concept design.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to request from Council an opportunity to see an entire plan for Bay Oaks based on their original concept, which DRMP showed on the conceptual drawing dated December, 2019 and they would look at the plans in varying stages based on available funding; second by BORCAB Member Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VII. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Chair Simpson commented that Council supported the walking path but the path stopped instead of looping. She noted they brought up adding the arches to the path. BORCAB Member Hill stated that the arches were on San Carlos Island, not on Fort Myers Beach. She opposed putting the arches on the beach. BORCAB Member Melsek stated that the original stones crumbled and could not be used to recreate the arches. He was opposed to the arches. BORCAB Member Hill suggested that Council vote on putting an end to the arch conversation. Liaison Allers noted the arches were on the next M&P agenda.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Melsek moved that BORCAB recommended against and opposed recreating the arches on Bay Oaks property; second by BORCAB Member Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATE – December 1, 2020

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Adopted 1/5/2021 with/without changes. Motion by Karen Woodson
(DATE)

Vote: Betty Simpson Signature: 

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