

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MYERS BEACH**  
**Anchorage Advisory Committee**  
Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Light.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Douglas Eckmann, Greg Holmes, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light, Sam Lurie and Mike Ratliff.

Excused: Rob Beasley

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley and Harbormaster Austin Gilchrist.

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to accept Bob Beasley's excused absence; second by AAC Member Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18, 2020**

**MOTION:** AAC Member Eckmann moved to approve the minutes; second by AAC Member Ratliff.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. MOORING FIELD AND STAFF REPORT**

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that they scheduled approximately 25 pump-outs weekly and pump-outs for 6 vessels outside the Mooring Field were fairly routine. The dinghy that sunk was removed and turned over to the Lee County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department planned to remove four derelict vessels this week and four more were scheduled for removal within the next couple of weeks. He contacted the Coast Guard regarding monitoring anchored boats outside the Coast Guard station and they stated that they did not have procedures in place. Harbormaster Gilchrist documented vessels that were out of compliance with the channel for possible future enforcement.

Director O'Riley reported that the vessel Moonraker broke free out of the field and was now behind Bay Oaks. Lee County Sheriff's Department secured the vessel on the sand bar and would

continue to monitor the vessel. She noted that the lawsuits regarding derelict vessels were being pursued.

AAC Member Ratliff suggested that they be contacted when a dinghy registered to a vessel in the Mooring Field was abandoned. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that procedures were in place to register dinghies, but the sunk dinghy owner did not follow the registration process. He noted that the dinghy dock signage stated that all dinghies must be registered before using the dock. Director O'Riley added that registration to use the dinghy dock was free.

AAC Member Ratliff questioned whether the boats outside the channel were legally anchored. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that it depended on who you asked. He indicated ordinances were on the books, but enforcement was lacking. He was more concerned regarding the lack of safety checks on the vessels. AAC Member Ratliff questioned whether policing the vessels was under their purview. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that they responded to complaints from residents who lived on the water and they were forwarded to the appropriate agencies. AAC Member Ratliff suggested that residents call the Coast Guard or other entity directly.

Director O'Riley explained the Excel sheet with daily, weekly and monthly numbers from Matanzas. She noted that, in the future, she would be able to run the report instantly with Dockwa. She suggested that members send her questions regarding the report for follow up with Matanzas. AAC Member Lawwill questioned when they would receive income and occupancy data in the same format it was in to compare with past years. Director O'Riley noted that she would request data from the Finance Department. Chair Light requested a fiscal year report.

Director O'Riley reported that Matanzas received additional training for Dockwa and they were working out kinks. Chair Light mentioned redundant email reminders.

Director O'Riley noted that the new Finance Director stated they should be collecting sales tax. The Finance Director will notify Matanzas of the change as of January 1, 2021, and Dockwa was notified. AAC Member Lurie questioned whether they would be allowed to pay the sales tax retroactively and be excused from penalties. Director O'Riley replied that the Finance Department would handle the issue. She commented that the fee schedule would be updated and the end-user would not see an increase in fees. The tax would be deducted from the revenue split with Matanzas.

## **VII. EXPANSION OF THE MOORING FIELD UPDATE**

The DEP permit was pending.

## **VIII. UPLAND SERVICE PROVIDER UPDATE**

Director O'Riley provided numbers from November and an updated house budget. She stated both would be presented to Council in January.

Liaison Hosafros reported that she informed Council that the funds initially set aside for AAC were not available for Bay Oaks.

AAC Lawwill questioned whether adding a lift to the property on Virginia St. would be an option. Director O'Riley responded that the seawall would have to be improved, but they could investigate grant opportunities.

Director O'Riley indicated that a meeting between the Chairs of Advisory Committees and Council would be scheduled early next year.

**IX. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW/COMMUNICATION PLAN**

On hold. Director O’Riley described updating social media and implementing ideas to enhance the customer’s experience. Liaison Hosafros reported that the Matanzas Pass cruisers had a Facebook page

**X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

AAC Member Lurie felt that the Town Manager should have sent out a mass email regarding the recent coronavirus outbreak at Town Hall.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Inaudible.

**XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Director O’Riley will follow up with members concerning the date.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to adjourn the meeting; second by AAC Member Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Adopted 1-20-21 with/without changes. Motion by LURIE  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: 

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