

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

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

**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: Bob Beasley, Douglas Eckmann, Greg Holmes, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light, and Sam Lurie.

Excused: Mike Ratliff

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

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comment.**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 17, 2021**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. MOORING FIELD AND STAFF REPORT**

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that all navigational signs were installed. He noted they were researching special purpose buoys to help prevent prop hits and seagrass buoys were being inspected and replaced if needed. The dinghy dock sign was replaced with a corrected pump-out schedule. Pump-outs outside of the field were busy and they were servicing more marinas. Dive operations were in progress. He indicated that live-aboard inspections were coming up and rules would be emphasized. There were no significant issues with the dinghy dock, and they were looking into complaints regarding the water source.

Director O'Riley stated that hull scraping in the field was prohibited per the agreement with the state and they would reinforce it. Harbormaster Gilchrist added that the paint scrapings contaminated the water.

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

Director O'Riley indicated that they were very close to receiving the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval. She stated that they submitted the grant application to Florida Boating Improvement Plan (FBIP) for the expansion and it was under review. She noted they were putting the reimbursement package together for the big grant. Staff time affiliated with pump-outs was tracked and submitted for partial reimbursement under a separate grant.

Director O'Riley stated that they had to get the expansion permit from the DEP before they could apply for the dock at Bayside. She reminded AAC Members that any project funded under a grant would have to be open to the public free of charge.

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

Director O'Riley reported that Town Council determined that Bayside Park was not an option. She discussed researching other locations. She noted that meetings with Moss Marine were in progress and they discussed adding temporary trailers under the bridge. She stated she would meet individually with AAC Members to share the list of potential properties. She indicated that Town Council would discuss options at the May 6, 2021, M&P Session.

Chair Light commented that Moss Marine would have to bid like anyone else and thought they wanted to bring the service in-house. AAC Member Lurie also questioned renting space versus taking it in-house. He thought it was strange that they singled out Moss Marine but ignored other properties. Liaison Hosafros stated that one Council Member requested permission to approach Moss Marine. Chair Light did not support temporary trailers unless a site was already procured. AAC Member Beasley commented that if Town Council was not interested in taking it in-house, they might as well stay where they were and work out details. Liaison Hosafros noted that the trailers were mentioned as a backup plan. AAC Member Lurie stated that except for Liaison Hosafros, all Council Members were unreceptive to Bayside Park. He felt their objections were unreasonable. Director O'Riley encouraged everyone to submit ideas for potential locations.

AAC Member Holmes was against the trailers and would rather extend the contract with Matanzas. Director O'Riley replied that they could not extend the contract; Matanzas had to respond to the bid. If they did not respond, trailers would be used for a backup. She suggested that AAC Members visit the portable trailers at Snook Bight Marina for an example of what the Town would provide.

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

Director O'Riley shared social media statistics regarding the Mooring Field. She described some changes to the website and noted that dinghy permits were digitized. She will check to see whether they advertised in Cruiser's Net.

Chair Light referred to comment cards and noted two did not like Dockwa. She indicated that first come, first serve was an issue with Dockwa. Director O'Riley commented that they were working on the confusion surrounding wait-listed.

Discussion was held regarding pushing back some dates and being on hold until the provider issue was solved. Chair Light suggested that they review the plan before every meeting.

AAC Member Lurie questioned whether Council asked for a staff recommendation on Bayside Park. Liaison Hosafros replied negatively and noted the staff's position was clear.

**X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Chair Light questioned issues with the latest occupancy report. Director O’Riley explained that they were working on fixing a snag with transients and contracts.

AAC Member Lawwill noted a big dip in occupancy at the end of each month. He compared occupancy with previous years and indicated they were down a little. Director O’Riley added that she was waiting for confirmation concerning the most recent figures. Discussion was held regarding the graph of boat lengths.

AAC Member Holmes stated that he was leaving for the summer and would return in September. Director O’Riley noted that the Town Attorney was pursuing one delinquent vessel.

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

**XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA** - Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

**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 9:52 a.m.

Adopted 5/19/21 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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