

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

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The 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, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light, Sam Lurie and Mike Ratliff.

Absent: Greg Holmes

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

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Davis, resident, attended the meeting to educate himself about the AAC.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 17, 2021, and December 15, 2021

MOTION: AAC Member Beasley moved to approve both sets of minutes; second by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Harbormaster Gilchrist started his report. The pump-out boat was relocated. Coins were no longer accepted in the laundry facilities for various reasons. The field had been at 100% occupancy since last month, 14 were on the waitlist and multiple boats were turned away every day. Harbormaster Gilchrist noted that marinas, mooring fields and slips were full throughout the state. He commented that one patron complained regarding the depth during low tide, but staff was working to accommodate vessels. Joe Dunn was hired and was being certified. The maintenance boat was up and running to service the systems when needed. He stated that mandatory pump-outs were mandated in the field with make-ups on Friday, but he still took requests during the week.

Harbormaster Gilchrist noted that many signs were updated with the new phone number. Key fobs were issued with a \$25.00 deposit and a drop-off box was located in the laundry room. He reported that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) removed the stairs from the dinghy dock and put barrels up to deter people from fishing off the pier and dinghy dock. Mooring staff started

servicing the south end of the island and Coastal Engineering was helping with signage. Director O'Riley revealed that the Town was notified that It was out of compliance regarding the seagrass permit, so they ordered signs and would install them immediately. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that due to subleasing some balls, percentages exceeded 100%.

Director O'Riley explained that the fishing pier under the bridge did not belong to the Town and FDOT was removing the fishing pier. AAC Member Lurie questioned whether Town staff could install a "No Fishing Between Signs" sign in front of the seawall. Director O'Riley agreed it was a good idea and would look into it.

Chair Light questioned whether there was a depth chart for the Mooring Field and Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that he would check with the engineer. Director O'Riley stated that the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) grant agreement for the construction of the Mooring Field was on its way. She described the next steps after Council approved the supplemental task authorization for Coastal Engineering Consultants.

Director O'Riley indicated that Town staff had to address concerns from abutting neighbors regarding the new dinghy dock before the Town could move forward. She noted the Town was looking at expanding staff and praised the current team for covering the office.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW – to be discussed next month.

VIII. CRUISERS' APPRECIATION DAY – March 25, 2022

Director O'Riley stated the Town paid 50% of the deposit and two tickets per ball would be issued. She noted the Town paid for 140 tickets and Chair Light questioned whether the Town would receive credit for unused tickets. Discussion ensued. Director O'Riley requested that AAC let her know ASAP if they wanted to reduce the number. Harbormaster Gilchrist will check with local restaurants regarding the sale of alcohol for the event. Chair Light suggested providing soft drinks and water. Director O'Riley stated the new vending machine for the laundry room should be delivered soon.

Raffle item requests were assigned. AAC Member Ratliff questioned whether anyone contacted the Chamber of Commerce to help with donations. Town Manager Hernstadt noted that an AAC Member might want to attend the Chamber's next after-hours meeting.

IX. HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Director O'Riley stated this was the first draft and more details needed to be addressed. Chair Light suggested that the cover include The Town of Fort Myers Beach and the Anchorage Advisory Committee. Grammar and language questions were discussed and changed where appropriate. Insurance requirements were added back into the plan and operational issues were discussed. AAC Member Eckmann offered suggestions on certain verbiage in the Harbor Management Plan. Director O'Riley will forward the plan to members for review and editing. The review will continue next month.

X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair Light suggested that AAC Member Ratliff email Director O’Riley with any changes or edits to the Harbor Manager Plan before the next meeting.

Town Manager Hernstadt described the Town’s search for a suitable location for an upland provider and stated that they might have to move quickly in the current market. He indicated the AAC would be notified of the agenda item.

Town Manager Hernstadt stated the Town was actively looking for opportunities and not giving up on finding a place.

Director O’Riley stated the Chamber after-hours meeting was tomorrow night at Diamond Head.

Liaison Hosafros noted the free tree giveaway was Friday, January 21, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Bay Oaks.

No items from other members.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA - tentatively February 16, 2022

AAC Member Beasley will be out of town from Feb. 7-13 and AAC Member Ratliff from Feb. 8–20, 2022. Director O’Riley noted the meeting would be upstairs or at Newton Park.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: AAC Member Beasley moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Chair Light.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Adopted 2-16-22 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: Katherine Light

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