

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, June 15, 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, Katherine Light and Sam Lurie.

Excused: Greg Holmes and Mike Ratliff.

Absent: Ted Lawwill

Staff: Public Works Manager Jason Freeman and Harbormaster Austin Gilchrist.

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 20, 2022

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that they had 80% occupancy or better in the field and 10 systems were available. He noted two leases were ended due to the condition of the boats and the balls were filled immediately. He indicated they were having problems with the pennant lines binding up and explained how they stopped the bridles from twisting. Two part-time people left and Patrick Zamorano was now full-time. An ad was placed for a part-time position. The training was complete at Ostego Bay. The new pump-out boat was in use. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that the office area was cleaned up and equipment was put in storage. He reported that dinghies were speeding around the Mooring Field and three were cited. Two vessels were untangled by staff. All procedures were reevaluated for efficiency. He stated that he reviewed services provided by other marinas and the cost of those services. The Mooring Field was charging less than other marinas and offered more services. Harbormaster Gilchrist noted that he was looking at a 32% increase for field rates or a \$100.00 increase for monthly rates and increasing parking from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for monthly passes with monthly leases. Weekly and daily rates would also be increased. The parking passes coincided with the leases on file. He explained the additional expenses and noted that expanded services in the Mooring Field would cost more.

Chair Light requested the comparison information. Harbormaster Gilchrist listed the municipality mooring fields he compared prices and services with. Public Works Manager Freeman indicated that by increasing the rates they would be able to maintain services and continue the level with the expansion. Harbormaster Gilchrist indicated he was discussing the parking increase with the parking department. AAC Member Beasley questioned where the new monthly rate of \$412.00 would fall within the comparison mooring fields. Harbormaster Gilchrist responded the highest was \$550.00 per month and the lowest was \$250.00 per month. He added that the \$550.00 was from St. Petersburg and the field was now condemned. Public Works Manager Freeman added that he anticipated needing an increase of approximately \$186,000.00 to cover expenses and maintain the level of services.

Chair Light questioned whether Harbormaster Gilchrist would include graphs previously distributed. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied affirmatively. Public Works Manager Freeman noted that he would check on responses regarding preferences for office hours. Town Manager Hernstadt was authorized to negotiate a contract to install new mooring systems and Public Works Manager Gilchrist will keep the AAC updated. Harbormaster Gilchrist indicated the new signs had been installed and he will eventually meet up with the Sheriff's Department. He described how fraudulent payments were resolved.

AAC Member Lurie questioned the refund status from the food truck vendor for Cruisers' Appreciation Day. Public Works Manager Freeman stated that the town paid \$1,400.00 to the vendor. Chair Light indicated a discrepancy between the number of meals provided and what was paid for. She added that only 73 tickets were issued, the food ran out and surplus meals were not provided. Public Works Manager Freeman noted he would check the details. Public Works Manager Freeman received the invoice and 100 meals were paid for.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Chair Light questioned renumbering the plan after sections were removed. Consensus was reached to renumber after sections were removed and keep sections marked as complete for a specific time. AAC Member Eckmann received support for his suggestion to review the plan yearly.

VIII. CRUISERS' APPRECIATION DAY – see the staff report.

IX. HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Chair Light noted that the appendices changes from April were not yet incorporated into the plan. The Roman numerals were added but not to the table of contents. Public Works Manager Freeman will incorporate the changes by the next meeting. Discussion was held regarding consistency with terminology throughout the plan.

Chair Light identified grammar issues and removed the word "the" from relevant areas for consistency. A discussion was held regarding potential liability with the Harbormaster removing vessels in an emergency and notifying the Harbormaster before tying off to a mooring ball and executing a rental agreement within 24 hours.

AAC Member Beasley had to leave the meeting.

Chair Light continued reviewing the plan. Language was discussed and changes were made accordingly. Public Works Manager Freeman will provide a clean copy and a marked-up copy of the plan by the next meeting.

X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Lurie suggested a discussion of double booking before season started. He opposed the idea. Chair Light agreed with a discussion and suggested discussing rafting. No items from other members.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – August 17, 2022

Remove Cruisers’ Appreciation Day and Strategic Plan Review. Add fee schedule.

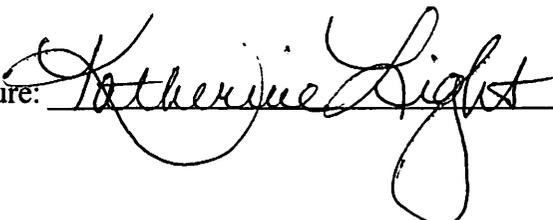
XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Adopted 8/17/22 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: 4-0 Signature: 

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