

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MYERS BEACH**  
**Anchorage Advisory Committee**  
Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Wednesday, August 17, 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: Douglas Eckmann, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light and Sam Lurie.  
Excused: Bob Beasley, Greg Holmes and Mike Ratliff.  
Staff: Public Works Manager Jason Freeman and Harbormaster Austin Gilchrist.  
Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

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

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 15, 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 the field was 80% occupied. New perimeter buoys were being installed and the fabricated line was being tested to determine how it would perform with the high current. He noted some buoys were still missing, but all would be replaced simultaneously. Pump-outs were about 12 per day. Staff continued to explore locations for an upland service provider. The expansion on the other side of the bridge was progressing and letters to boaters anchored in the area were sent to inform them to relocate by August 30, 2022. A meeting was set up with the Sheriff's Department on August 24, 2022, regarding legalities surrounding removing people from the area. Staff was looking for another vendor for the vending machines and exploring retail options like t-shirts and hats with logos to sell out of the office. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that the drone revealed sheens on the water and they were reported to the Coast Guard. A new phone system was installed in the office and a rough draft of a brochure was created. Four vessels were relocated to make the field more functional for the pump-out boat. Staff assisted with a medical emergency in the field a couple of days ago and the gentleman was expected to recover fully. There were no current delinquencies and one vessel's contract was not renewed due to non-compliance with the lease.

Chair Light questioned the status of the maintenance logs. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that he would forward the report to members.

Manager Freeman noted that applications for AAC renewals were due on Friday, September 23, 2022, and he will forward an application to AAC Member Beasley.

## **VII. MOORING FEE SCHEDULE**

Chair Light noted the fee schedule would go before Council in September when the budget was discussed. She suggested a 25% raise with weekly rates at \$133.00 and monthly at \$405.00. She felt it brought them more in line with surrounding facilities. AAC Members thought that the rates were comparable.

**MOTION:** AAC Member Eckmann moved to adopt a 25% rate increase; second by AAC Member Lurie.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

AAC Member Lawwill questioned the effect of the increase on income versus expense. Harbormaster Gilchrist responded that some services would be affected by any rate increase below 30%. AAC Member Eckmann noted that the AAC could adjust the rates next year if needed.

AAC Member Lurie explained that he was against rafting because of potential insurance liability. He was also against empty ball filling. When patrons rent a ball, it should be available for them whether they were there or not. Chair Light agreed it was dangerous to raft boats. She was not opposed to renting balls when patrons left for a week or two, but she was opposed to marking the ball when people left to get fuel or water. AAC Member Eckmann added his opposition to rafting.

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to recommend that rafting boats on the Mooring Field be prohibited and only one boat per ball plus accessory dinghies; second by AAC Member Eckmann.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Manager Freeman read rules regarding temporary legal mooring from the Harbor Management Plan. Harbormaster Gilchrist commented that rafting was a common practice and no incidents had been reported. He indicated that rafting allowed them to fill vacancies and staff were trying to appease patrons. A clause in the lease removed liabilities from the town except for negligence. Harbormaster Gilchrist will provide a list of mooring fields that allowed rafting. AAC Member Lurie did not see any upside to the practice.

A discussion was held regarding who would represent the AAC at the budget hearings and Chair Light will check her schedule.

## **VIII. HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

Chair Light reviewed comments from the last meeting and noted some roman numerals, capital letters and numbers were not added back for referencing sections. Adding the word "the" was not consistent in the plan. AAC Members reached a consensus to table the review until more members were in attendance. Manager Freeman stated that the newest copy would be provided to members before the next meeting. Chair Light mentioned references to the insurance requirement and the rental agreement.

**IX. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

Chair Light questioned whether they were still advertising in Cruiser’s Net. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied affirmatively and will check the contract. He added that he was working with the PIO concerning an incentive program to bring more people into the field. Staff entered the Mooring Field as a business on Google Network. The Mooring Field received an award for Facility of the Year from Marinas.com and the certificate and recognition will be printed and presented. Chair Light verified that Harbormaster Gilchrist and one full-time person were the current staff. Harbormaster Gilchrist would like two more full-timers and a seasonal part-time person was scheduled to return for the season.  
No items from other members.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Helen Gray, Ball 23, stated that her vessel was struck by lightning in July and she informed the office that her vessel was being repaired and she would be off the ball for a while. Staff told her that she was being moved to the eastern field. She rejected the assignment and sent emails for an appeal but was denied. She requested to be put on the agenda for the next meeting and questioned who she should contact regarding providing backup information to support her appeal. Harbormaster Gilchrist noted that he had Ms. Gray’s contact information. Manager Freeman will forward all relevant information concerning the appeal to AAC Members before the next meeting.

**XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – September 21, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.**

Add the Helen Gray appeal before the Staff Report.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Chair Light.  
**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Adopted 9/21/2022 with/without changes. Motion by ECKMANN  
(DATE)

Vote: 5-0 Signature: D.H. Eckmann

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