

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

**Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Light. Members present: Greg Holmes, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light, Sam Lurie and Mike Ratliff.

Excused: Robert Beasley

Absent: William Kubicek

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

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

•Natalie Richardson, resident, read a letter from Dave Richardson. He did not support the proposed building or expansion of the Mooring Field.

Bob Richardson indicated there were three restrooms with seven stalls available at Marina Village on the ground floor. He commented that hurricane-proof restrooms were allowed on the ground floor. He discussed the costs of a new facility and encouraged the AAC to look at other options.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 15, February 19 and May 15, 2020**

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the minutes of January 15, 2020; second by AAC Member Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020; second by AAC Member Ratliff.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2020; second by AAC Member Holmes.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. MOORING FIELD AND STAFF REPORT**

Harbormaster Gilchrist indicated the dive operation should start next week. A float was added to the dinghy dock as a buffer. Matanzas added a porta-potty under the bridge and they were responsible for maintenance. He discussed jurisdictional lines regarding pump-out service.

Vessels were being moved to open the front portion of the field. Wet storage would be moved to the front of the backfield. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that they would enforce mandatory pump-outs every three days and they were assisting private marinas with pump-outs.

Director O'Riley noted that the mandatory three-day pump-out rule was in the Harbormaster Plan. She commented that they received a \$50,000.00 WCIND grant and a DEP grant that subsidized staff for pumping-out boats. She stated that they were combining all submerged land leases to simplify the process and DEP required new surveys of the existing facilities. Director O'Riley indicated that the Bayside project was on hold and she had a tentative meeting with Doug at Matanzas regarding their alternative proposal. She reported that two vessels had outstanding balances and the Town Attorney was involved. A third vessel was being monitored. Matanzas moved most payments to the beginning of the month.

AAC Member Ratliff questioned whether boats with larger drafts were considered when determining where to move vessels. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied affirmatively. He indicated that Ball 1 and 2 would be utilized as a check-in station. Director O'Riley discussed implementing a registration system from Dockwa.

Chair Light was concerned regarding grouping unmanned boats in the field for safety. Director O'Riley noted the Marine Patrol Unit was monitoring the field. She noted that if changes did not work, they would create another plan. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that reported crimes had declined almost 100% over the last four years. He described enhanced communications with the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

Harbormaster Gilchrist reviewed the pump-out window. Chair Light questioned the availability of longer parking permits for liveaboards. Director O'Riley responded that the length of the contract corresponded with the length of the parking permit. Chair Light addressed the taped-on notices regarding COVID-19. Director O'Riley commented that the Dockwa system would make future notifications easier.

AAC Member Lurie questioned whether the restrooms at Snug Harbor were open to the public. Director O'Riley noted staff would check with them to confirm. She confirmed that Harbor House was in an A flood zone and could be floodproofed. She indicated that they planned to meet with Harbor House next week to discuss details.

Director O'Riley stated that a federal grant for 50 new systems was approved.

AAC Member Ratliff indicated that there was a restroom on the ground floor of the Harbor House. He reviewed the timeline of discussions regarding Bayside Park. He noted they did not discuss Harbor House as a specific alternative until May and he thought it was a viable option. He commented that not many alternatives were available and the AAC acted responsibly.

AAC Member Lawwill addressed the financial report and requested that they receive the excel spreadsheet before meetings. Chair Light requested the year-end report when it was ready. Director O'Riley replied that she would submit their request to finance.

Director O'Riley stated that the Matanzas contract expires in November 2020 and they would have to bid out services. She discussed adding a separate service fee to cover the 3% processing fee from Dockwa.

Director O'Riley requested that they review the draft Strategic Plan before the next meeting and contact her with any questions or comments. She indicated that Mooring Field operations were separated from Maritime in the proposed budget. She stated that the year-to-date revenues for the Mooring Field was \$129,120.00 and last year's revenues were \$155,957.00

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

Director O'Riley indicated that \$120,000.00 would be used to buy and install 19 new systems for the expansion if approved by Council. Additional discussion above.

## VII. UPLAND SERVICE PROVIDER UPDATE

Covered under V.

## VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Lurie noted their ad appeared in Southwinds in March and they had a full-page ad in April. He brought up someone operating a charter business from the Mooring Field. Director O'Riley responded that they would look into the language in the lease.

Chair Light questioned the budget and Director O'Riley replied that it was submitted.

Director O'Riley noted that Coordinator Shustz was working with the FWCC (Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission) regarding slowing vessel speeds in the back bay to protect manatees.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lori Russell, Manager of Marina Village, noted their restrooms were available for public use. She indicated that Margaritaville would have restrooms. She discussed blocking the views and increased foot traffic in the area. She felt they could find better facilities to take care of the needs of people in the Mooring Field.

- Todd described available space in Harbor House. He noted AAC Members would be allowed to inspect the facility.

- Tyler Lemmer, Nervous Nellies, thanked AAC for looking into alternatives for the upland service provider. He noted their restrooms were open to the public.

## X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA - July 15, 2020

Add Strategic Plan.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Adopted 7-15-20 (DATE) with without changes. Motion by SAM

Vote: 5-0 Signature: Katherine Light

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