

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

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Lurie.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Bob Beasley, Douglas Eckmann, Greg Holmes, Ted Lawwill, Sam Lurie and Mike Ratliff.

Excused: Katherine Light

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

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Helen Gray, Ball 23, discussed boaters creating big wakes in the Mooring Field. She requested an enhanced presence by marine patrols, additional signs and a reminder to boat rental companies to inform customers.

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

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. MOORING FIELD AND STAFF REPORT**

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that about 15 pump-outs were scheduled every day. Channel marker 5 was due to be replaced on Monday. He noted that special purpose buoys around the Mooring Field were being priced and would be replaced. Dive operations for three-month inspections would begin next week. He indicated that one derelict vessel was still in the field, but it was moving through the legal system. He stated there was an increase in traffic due to season and mentioned inexperienced boaters unfamiliar with the area.

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

Director O'Riley stated that negotiations stalled with the Homeowners Association (HOA) because they did not want a public restroom. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit was pending, and they received the waterway marker permit and the Army Corps of Engineers permit.

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

Director O'Riley stated they were looking for alternatives and an RFP would be sent out. She encouraged members to contact her with ideas. AAC Member Ratliff saw no reason to expand the Mooring Field if they did not secure an upland provider. Vice Chair Lurie commented that they did not have to expand the field as soon as they received the permit. Director O'Riley added that after the permit was issued, it would take at least a year or two before anything happened. AAC Member Beasley stated that Town Council missed the boat by denying the Bayside Park location for the Mooring Field. He noted they could have scaled back the building design. The Town-owned the property and they should have used it for an upland provider facility. He felt that Council should revisit the issue. Liaison Hosafros agreed with AAC Member Beasley and stated that the other Council Members would not change their minds. AAC Member Beasley replied that it was really a stupid move on their part. Liaison Hosafros agreed that Bayside Park was the perfect location. AAC Members Eckmann and Holmes agreed and felt they should look at it again. Liaison Hosafros noted that residents were against the plan, not just businesses. She suggested that AAC Members contact Council Members. Director O'Riley reported that Bayside Park construction was going out to bid in April.

AAC Member Ratliff observed that special interest groups got attention from Town Council Members and nothing got done except bad decisions. AAC Member Lawwill agreed with other members. Director O'Riley noted they were at the mercy of those who respond to the RFP. Vice Chair Lurie agreed that they did not know who would bid or what would be available in the future.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Lurie moved that in light of the developments with Harbor House, AAC recommended revisiting having facilities located at Bayside; second by AAC Member Eckmann.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Lurie suggested that Town Council watch their meeting from 9:15-9:30 a.m. Liaison Hosafros suggested that an AAC Member attend the next Council Meeting and inform Council of their vote during Committee Reports. Vice Chair Lurie mentioned sending a letter to Town Council Members.

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

Director O'Riley noted that social media posts promoted the Mooring Field and Dockwa. Harbormaster Gilchrist introduced Lieutenant Chris Nice to review the derelict vessel process. He stated that a new Florida Statute allowed them to take care of some issues now. He indicated that it was a long process, but they were moving forward with the seven or eight vessels left. AAC Member Beasley commented that they were doing a great job. Lieutenant Nice revealed that additional regulations from the state were in the pipeline and would help.

## **X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

AAC Member Beasley reiterated that the Bayside Park location was a missed opportunity.

AAC Member Ratliff supported AAC Member Beasley. He was concerned with the future of the Mooring Field if they did not do something about an upland provider. If Council decided not to revisit the location, the decision was on them, not the AAC.

AAC Member Holmes requested that Vice Chair Lurie copy them on the letter to Council and remind them of the April meeting so they could attend. Vice Chair Lurie urged members to write emails to individual Council Members.

AAC Member Lawwill stated that they still had not received occupancy and revenue reports. He questioned how they could encourage the administration to provide them with the information. Director O'Riley replied that revenue from October – February was approximately \$75,000.00 and occupancy was at 59. She remarked that the Finance Department was experiencing staff changes, but she would provide monthly occupancy figures from Dockwa.

Harbormaster Gilchrist put up an informational board at the dinghy dock.

AAC Member Holmes reported that he would not be at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Lurie reminded AAC members that the next Council meeting was April 5, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. He suggested they send an email to individual Council Members before the meeting.

Liaison Hosafros informed members that one email address went to all Council Members and the Town Manager.

## XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Goebel from the Mooring Field was confused about how big boats could be on certain balls. He noted his boat was 50 feet and his friend's boat was 46 feet, but they were told no balls were available for the 46-foot boat. Harbormaster Gilchrist explained that there were no variances added to the variables with swing radiuses. They had to perform due diligence of applying the radiuses to the systems. He noted that they would work patrons in when they could. Director O'Riley added that Matanzas was told not to turn anyone away and work with Harbormaster Gilchrist regarding radius issues. Mr. Goebel reported that his pump-out experience was fantastic and the service was great.

AAC Member Ratliff stated this was another example of why they needed a full-time, in-house staff with an upland system to support the Mooring Field. He described his experience from 1984 and noted it used to be a wild west situation with no concern for anyone. AAC Member Beasley agreed that it was a terrible situation and described the trash and destruction to property. After the Mooring Field was established, all of that stopped. Director O'Riley replied that the Mooring Field was not going away. AAC Member Ratliff acknowledged that it might not go away, but patrons would not visit the field without an adequate upland provider. Vice Chair Lurie added that it used to be a free-for-all.

## XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA - Wednesday, April 21, 2021

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** AAC Member Beasley moved to adjourn the meeting; second by AAC Member Ratliff.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Adopted 4-20-21 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: Katherine Light

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