

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

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent: William Kubicek III

Staff: Austin Gilchrist and Chelsea O'Riley.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Richard Chandler, Ball 36, thanked the harbormaster for the fantastic job he was doing. AAC Member . Chandler relayed a story of FWC (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) law enforcement knocking on the side of his vessel at 8:30 p.m. because he did not have a sticker on his dinghy. He stated that he was read his rights and the officer issued a citation for \$271.00. He described the costs to moor at the Fort Myers Basin and he questioned whether he should move out of the Mooring Field. He described other incidents involving law enforcement checking boats late at night.
- Don Hansen, Ball 12, thanked Town Harbormaster Austin Gilchrist and crew for the outstanding service they provide. He thanked the AAC for updating the mooring pennants. He questioned why FWC was out inspecting at night, noted he would like to have more space for dinghies, and questioned whether they could provide a meeting area for social gatherings by partnering with Matanzas.
- Leon Moyer described issues with derelict vessels outside the Mooring Field.
- Sherry Lincoln agreed with the previous speaker regarding the vessels. She did not want a couple of people to ruin the Mooring Field for everyone. She thought there should be a separate place for transient vessels.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 17, 2018

Delete the following sentence: There were working on issues with three vessels and they were up to date on rent. Replace with: The Town is working on issues with three vessels.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the minutes as amended; second by AAC Member Beasley.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. MOORING FIELD AND STAFF REPORT

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that the front field was sold out and they were starting to fill up the back field. He stated that crab traps were dropped in the Mooring Field. FWC removed traps in violation of the waterways, but they did not remove the traps in the Mooring Field. He questioned allowing vessels to cut through the Mooring Field, drop crab traps or commercially fish in the Mooring Field. Chair Light indicated that it had not come up before. AAC Member Beasley thought it may be a state issue. Chair Light questioned how to enforce boats cutting through. Harbormaster Gilchrist described liability and safety issues. He indicated that FWC was the enforcement branch of the state and they declined to enforce cutting through and dropping crab traps in the Mooring Field. Chair Light commented that it should be easy to regulate crab traps but would be difficult to regulate people cutting through. AAC Member Lurie suggested sending an email to FWC regarding enforcing crab traps. Consensus was reached to prohibit crab traps. AAC Member Ratliff commented that they needed to get a definite answer from FWC regarding their enforcement policy concerning buffer zones and the Mooring Field.

MOTION: AAC Member Lawwill moved to direct staff to research how to ban crab traps in the Mooring Field and get it in writing; second by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Harbormaster Gilchrist commented that they were starting to choose 10 people for the liveaboard program. Chair Light stated that the program no longer existed. AAC Member Ratliff described the history of the program and how it was phased out. AAC Member Beasley agreed with AAC Member Ratliff's description. Public Works Manager O'Riley stated that it was very clear in the submerged land lease that they were allowed to have 10 liveaboards. Chair Light questioned whether they checked with the state. AAC Member Holmes commented that the state may allow liveaboards, but the Town was not required to. AAC Member Lawwill stated that the issue was addressed in the Harbor Management Plan. Staff will review the plan and get back to them. AAC Member Ratliff noted that the state did not allow liveaboards in a Mooring Field with a submerged land lease. The state made an exception for the Mooring Field with the understanding that they would phase out liveaboards through attrition.

AAC Member Ratliff questioned whether they were interested in allowing liveaboards. Chair Light replied that they had to be in compliance with the land lease and the agreement with the state.

Chair Light questioned the status of the dinghy permit. Manager O'Riley replied that they were using the edited version and the program was in effect. She will provide a copy of the documentation. Harbormaster Gilchrist noted they had 51 registered dinghies.

Chair Light requested an update regarding the missing shoal sign. Harbormaster Gilchrist responded that the sign was on order and he was waiting for clarification regarding ownership of the sign.

Chair Light questioned whether the proposed rate change had been discussed. Staff replied that the rate had not changed but they did reimburse one person for an emergency situation. He stated

that they did not have the rate change discussion with Matanzas Inn. AAC Member Lurie indicated that he did mention the change to Council. Manager O’Riley stated that Council voted to adjust all fees to include the new half-cent sales tax. She suggested that it would be clearer to state just the fees plus the sales tax. AAC Member Beasley noted that it would be easier to keep the fees separate since the tax would change in the future. AAC Member Lurie supported including the tax in the fee even if they had to increase the fee a couple of dollars. Manager O’Riley noted that Matanzas agreed with a flat fee plus tax. She described a new point of sale system that would make the process easier. Discussion was held regarding restructuring the fee and taxes.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to keep the base rate excluding tax and add on the current sales tax rate; second by AAC Member Beasley.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Manager O’Riley provided information regarding providing upland services in-house. AAC Member Lawwill stated that his goal was to obtain a base number on what the Mooring Field cost the Town including external costs and compare those figures to what it would cost the Town to provide upland services. He proposed that they select someone to work with Town staff to figure out where they stood before proposing any plan.

MOTION: AAC Member Beasley moved to designate AAC Member Lawwill to assist Town staff; second by AAC Member Holmes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Light clarified figures in the report. Manager O’Riley offered to go over the figures individually, and noted the revised advertisement was included in their packet.

VI. MAINTENANCE

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that all but four new pennant lines were installed and the field was open for service. He noted that Ball #9 had to be replaced and three balls had the mooring coming through the ball but they had new pennants. He scheduled an inspection dive for next week. He noted they were waiting until after season to reconstruct the dinghy.

VII. MOORING FIELD WELCOME PACKET

Chair Light reviewed updated information in the letter. Harbormaster Gilchrist will present the changes to Matanzas Inn and noted that new graphics were in progress.

VIII. CRUISERS’ APPRECIATION DAY

Chair Light will update the brochure and letter before the next meeting. AAC Member Lurie will check on the menu in January or February.

IX. COUNCIL LIAISON ITEMS & REPORT – remove from agenda

X. MEMBERS ITEMS & REPORTS

AAC Member Lurie attended the Town Council meeting on November 19, 2018 and read Chair Light's report on their priorities and current activities. Chair Light expressed frustration regarding receiving only a week's notice to prepare a report for Council. She thanked AAC Member Lurie for presenting the report.

AAC Member Ratliff questioned the designation status for the Mooring Field. He noted the sooner they accomplished that goal the better.

AAC Member Lawwill questioned complaints of derelict vessels in the Mooring Field. Harbormaster Gilchrist noted that FWC had two open cases to remove the vessels. He described the WCIND (West Coast Inland Navigational District) program to monitor derelict vessels and he noted that it was a three-month process. He stated there were no derelict vessels in the Mooring Field.

AAC Member Lurie questioned why FWC was conducting routine inspections after hours. He stated it was dangerous and unnecessary.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Richard Chandler was grandfathered into the liveable program but left due to issues with Salty Sam's. He Chandler indicated that normally 10-13 vessels stayed through the summer. He thanked the AAC and Harbormaster Gilchrist. He shared the brochure from Fort Myers.
- Sherry Lincoln discussed keeping restroom facilities open 24 hours a day by providing a code for the Mooring Field. She suggested utilizing Facebook as a communication tool.
- Don Hansen expressed appreciation for Penny, Patty and Polly at Matanzas Inn and Harbormaster Gilchrist.
- Leon Moyer did not find regulations regarding the Mooring Field and crab pots. He addressed enforcing the Town's noise ordinance in the field. He contacted Commissioner Kiker regarding a floating dock at Bowditch and Jesse Lavender from Lee County Parks and Recreation was directed to count boats that used the dock before making a decision.
- Penny Gardner from Matanzas Inn explained why the restroom hours were 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Chair Light noted that the issue had to be brought up with Town Council.

XII. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Remove Council Liaison Items, add costs with potential upland service changes and change of rates for extended stays.

Harbormaster Gilchrist will try to schedule an FWC representative to speak at their next meeting. He will provide an update from Mark Kincaid regarding the Mooring Field designation.

AAC Member Beasley requested an excused absence for the next meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: AAC Member Ratliff moved to adjourn; second by AAC Member Holmes.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

- End of document

DRAFT