

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

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

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, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light, Sam Lurie and Mike Ratliff.

Excused: Greg Holmes

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

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Valentine, snowbird, appreciated the friendly staff running the Mooring Field. He suggested that the AAC provide mail service. He also suggested a fee for the dinghy dock. He mentioned that Marathon provided free insulated bags paid for through advertising. He noted that change was hard to find for the laundry room machines and noted that Marathon provided a pre-paid fob that paid for amenities and included coupons for local businesses. Mr. Valentine suggested that staff participate on channel 68 to inform patrons of what was happening in the harbor.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 17, 2021

Minutes not provided.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Director O'Riley stated that they were waiting on a part to get the restrooms and laundry up and running. The security cameras and the fob system for the office were installed. She noted that Matanzas held the contract with the laundry service company and they no longer offered change. A credit card or app was required. She indicated that they were investigating purchasing washers and dryers or leases to own. AAC Member Beasley described a company that managed and maintained machines. Director O'Riley commented that she was looking into many options.

Town Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that they had about \$500 in quarters at the office. He pointed out that the dinghy dock was built with public funds and they could not charge for access. Director O'Riley reported that if the town built a dinghy dock at Bayside Park, they could regulate and

charge for access. Chair Light indicated they tried to partner with local businesses to include a handout with phone numbers, but the issue was dropped because they could not include every business. Director O'Riley remarked that the Chamber of Commerce promoted businesses.

Town Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that they monitored the cruisers net on Wednesdays, and he acknowledged they were working on communicating with the cruisers to provide accurate information. He described issues with the pump-out boat and commented that a surveyor inspected the boat and would provide a trade-in value soon. Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that they secured temporary dockage for the pump-out boat by Trico and Kelly Brothers. He noted they were working with the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to help regulate crab traps in the area. He added that they were working with local fire and police departments regarding providing pumps to help boaters when they took on water.

Town Harbormaster Gilchrist indicated that they received a quote for a dock on Virginia Ave., but they were having trouble finding marine construction businesses to work on the island. He stated that a water leak in the office was due to an overflow in the condo above. He commented that they were down to a response time of less than an hour. The Mooring Field was 100%, with four vessels on the waitlist. He reported some issues with people in the Mooring Field, but the police were investigating. Joe Dunn was hired to help in the field and office. Office hours were from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. He explained that they did not have a way to track or store mail, but general delivery at the post office was an option. AAC Member Ratliff supported finding a way to deliver mail for patrons. Director O'Riley replied that they would look into options after season.

VII. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Chair Light mentioned a couple of items that were not edited or removed after their discussion last month. She continued reviewing the plan.

Ongoing items were discussed, including acquiring WiFi for the entire Mooring Field, creating a social media presence, researching the best solution for tracking occupancy, key card, payment methods and security cameras. Number three was removed. Director O'Riley reported that she edited the Harbor Management Plan and Harbormaster Gilchrist was reviewing the edits. Discussion continued with enhanced communications, receiving budget reports, a marketing plan, monthly meet and greet and reformatting the laundry room for centralized communications. Welcome bag advertising was added as #11.

VIII. CRUISERS' APPRECIATION DAY – March 25, 2022

Director O'Riley reported that she received three proposals from food trucks. The banner was on order. She stated that the food trucks did not offer alcohol, but she mentioned contacting local businesses to host a satellite bar. Liaison Hosafros commented that Director Giesen offered the Mound House location for next year and AAC Members agreed as long as they could provide transportation. AAC Member Ratliff suggested surveying patrons of the Mooring Field regarding having the event at the Mound House. Chair Light distributed her planning sheet from 2020 with a list of businesses for the raffle. Director O'Riley displayed a give-away bag. Discussion was held regarding the budget, how many tickets to provide, the food truck deposit and permitting. Consensus was reached to use Brookes Nugget Wagon and the time of the event was discussed. Director O'Riley stated she would check availability. The raffle list will be discussed next month. AAC Member Lurie will provide updated press releases and Chair Light will contact The Observer.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

No member items.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Valentine suggested installing signage at the dinghy dock and questioned whether they could extend WiFi to the east end of the field and at the park.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA - January 19, 2022

Add review of the Harbor Management Plan.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Adopted 1-19-2022 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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