

**MINUTES
BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS
ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, August 10, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Simpson.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Members present: Bruce Butcher (via phone), Beth Cherry, Becky Guidry, Barbara Hill, Betty Simpson and Karen Woodson.

Staff: Cultural, Parks & Recreation Director Alison Giesen.

Council liaison: Dan Allers

IV. Approval of Minutes – August 2, 2022

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to approve the August 2, 2022 minutes; second by BORCAB Member Woodson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment – no public comment.

VI. Review Recommendations for Proposed Fee Schedule for FY23

BORCAB Member Woodson discussed the history of Bay Oaks and noted it was not meant to be a profit center to fund Town projects. She received many comments regarding how many families depended on the activities at Bay Oaks. She indicated that she had not considered the big picture when voting to increase the rates. BORCAB Member Woodson did not mind hiking fees for nonresidents, but she did not think it was right to increase the fees for families. She disagreed with the increases and could not support them when reporting to Town Council on Monday.

Chair Simpson noted that fees had not increased in 11 years and pointed out how old the building was. She thanked BORCAB Member Woodson for calling the special meeting and agreed that asking for that increase was probably off.

BORCAB Member Butcher stated that Bay Oaks was not a profit center. He indicated that the revenue was approximately 30% of the cost based on the old budget. The new building and expansion would create a bigger hole if the revenue were not raised. He noted that other communities charged for their facilities and felt the fees should remain.

BORCAB Member Guidry disagreed with the increase and spoke to families who said they would not pay the fees. BORCAB Member Butcher questioned how the Town could afford to put millions into Bay Oaks and not expect to get any financial relief. BORCAB Member Hill added

that the rec. center brought in only 23.5% of the revenue. She noted that Bay Oaks was an amenity for residents and the Town never assumed it would come close to half the income needed to operate the facilities. She agreed that the fees had to be adjusted to some extent. BORCAB Member Guidry felt going from \$125.00 to \$500.00 for a family to use the pool annually was a huge increase. BORCAB Member Hill stated that she paid \$4.00 each time she used the pool and did not think \$250.00 per year for an individual annual membership was a bad deal

BORCAB Member Guidry supported keeping a weekly and monthly rate.

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that building the building and increasing the fees were two separate issues. He commented that the general fund contributed \$210,155.00 to Bay Oaks and \$108,550.00 to the pool. He noted that taxpayers contributed 75% of the costs and user fees made up 25%. BORCAB Member Hill questioned whether Lee County contributed any funds to Bay Oaks. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that Lee County considered Bay Oaks a local park, so they did not qualify for any Lee County funding. Once the building was completed, the Town could request that Lee County reevaluate the facility.

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that revenue from Bay Oaks and the pool went back into the facilities. He discussed future programming and potential income. Liaison Allers noted that a new building could offer services that Bay Oaks could not currently support.

BORCAB Member Woodson agreed that the fees had to be raised, but not all at once. She indicated they needed to look at the percentage of the increase. BORCAB Member Cherry questioned whether they could propose a graduated increase over the years. Town Manager Hernstadt explained that \$500,000.00 was needed for furnishings and equipment for the new building. He stated that the proposed increases would provide \$150,000.00 towards the \$500,000.00. If the proposed fee increases were decreased, the result would be to slow down hiring for the new building or cut back on the FF & E in FY23. He preferred not to cut back on programming. BORCAB Member Guidry commented that people would not use the facilities if fees were raised too much.

Discussion was held regarding which fees were problematic. Town Manager Hernstadt suggested creating a Bay Oaks package, a pool package, and a discounted combination package. He felt that the annual membership for the rec. center and pool should be the same number. Liaison Allers questioned purchasing newer equipment for the gym and Director Giesen replied that she was replacing some of the equipment now.

Fees were discussed.

Pool resident day passes - adults \$7.00, two to twelve \$4.00 and two and under free.

Nonresident day passes - adults \$10.00, two to twelve \$7.00 and two and under free.

Annual resident family membership - \$250.00.

Annual nonresident family membership - \$450.00.

Liaison Allers suggested raising fees by a percentage. BORCAB Member Woodson suggested doubling all fees from last year and adding \$1.00 to individual classes.

Annual resident individual membership - \$120.00.

Annual nonresident individual membership - \$225.00.

Discussion was held regarding paying for individual classes without requiring membership and paying the day fee plus the class fee.

Fees for aerobics - \$4.00 for residents and \$6.00 for nonresidents.

Open lap swimming - \$3.00 for residents and \$5.00 for nonresidents. Corporate memberships were removed.

Summer camp fees would increase by \$25.00.

BORCAB Member Cherry had to leave the meeting.

Resident swimming lessons remained at \$160.00 per child, with Kiawanas paying half.
Nonresidents would increase to \$240.00 per child, with Kiawanas paying half.
Resident CPR/first aid class - \$75.00 - \$175.00 (depending on the certificate).
Nonresident - \$100.00 - \$200.00.
The late pick-up fee increased to \$10.00 every 15 minutes.
Rec. center resident day passes – adults \$7.00, twelve and under \$4.00.
Nonresident day passes – adults \$10.00, twelve and under \$7.00.
Annual resident individual membership - \$60.00 and \$40.00 for six months.
Annual nonresident individual membership - \$120.00 and \$75.00 for six months.
Annual resident family membership – \$120.00 and \$80.00 for six months.
Annual nonresident family membership - \$240.00 and \$150.00 for six months.
Full-time employee fees will be the same as residents.
Resident youth fun days - \$20.00 per day.
Nonresident youth fun days - \$30.00 per day.
The late pick-up fee increased to \$10.00 every 15 minutes.
Director Giesen reminded members that scholarships were available.
BORCAB Member Woodson thanked BORCAB Members for adjusting the fees.

VII. Board Member Items and Reports

No items.

VIII. Public Comment

John R. King, resident, thanked BORCAB Members for their reasonable approach to the fees.

IX. Future Meeting Date – September 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

X. Adjourn

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to adjourn; second by BORCAB Member Woodson.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Adopted 9/6/2022 with/without changes Motion by Barbara Hill
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: Betty Giesen

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