

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MYERS BEACH**  
**Anchorage Advisory Committee**  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
2731 Oak Street  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Friday, June 21, 2024

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Lurie.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Jim Hockett, Chris Riedel King, Ted Lawwill, Sam Lurie, John Wesley Nash and Ed Schoonover.

Staff: Harbormaster Curtis Ludwig

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 22, 2024**

AAC Member King felt that having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party operating the field upland facilities was a win-win.

**MOTION:** AAC Member Hockett moved to approve the minutes; second by AAC Member Nash.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES**

Public Information Officer (PIO) Nicole Berzin reported that the AAC has an Instagram and Facebook page. A short introduction video with Harbormaster Ludwig was complete and a longer video was in the works. As soon as she receives more information, she will create a draft of the rack card. AAC Member King pointed out some errors on Dockwa and shared information with PIO Berzin to add to the website. Harbormaster Ludwig indicated that he just updated Dockwa yesterday and would check for errors. He also noted that the website was being updated with more current information. AAC Member King suggested adding a link or a QR code to the website on the rack card, which would make updates easier. PIO Berzin will make sure a link to the website is on the AAC site. AAC Member Nash suggested making navigation to the AAC site more accessible on the town's website and PIO Berzin will look at it.

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that the new dinghy dock will go out to bid shortly. He noted that the dock would be aluminum instead of concrete. A dinghy dock will be placed next to the Matanzas dock temporarily. He estimated that it would take a month to complete the new dock. The next project was removing the Mooring Field debris, which will be put out to bid soon. He added that both projects would be reimbursed by Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA). Harbormaster Ludwig stated that three derelict vessels sank last week and Lee County was aware of the situation. He asked members where they wanted to put the old dinghy dock. Harbormaster Ludwig will look into using the old dock at the Mound House. Discussion was held about partnering with Snook Bite regarding using their facilities, advertising businesses that provide services, naming parts of the Mooring Field after participating businesses and making boaters aware of public transportation to get around. Harbormaster Ludwig stated that all boaters were offered a parking pass. AAC Member Nash suggested installing charging stations for e-bikes or scooters for a fee.

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that he was working with the Coast Guard regarding getting balls 4-9 back in service, but he did not have a resolution date. Increasing boater fees based on location was discussed.

Harbormaster Ludwig indicated they had to change the date of their September meeting. Consensus was reached to meet on September 16, 2024. He reported that he recently hired three people for marine operations. AAC Member Hockett questioned whether marine operations and the Mooring Field were separate in the budget. Harbormaster Ludwig responded that the Mooring Field was a line item under a larger category. Educating the public regarding the Mooring Field's actual cost of operations was discussed. AAC Member Lawwill noted that the public should know that most of the Mooring Field expenses were covered by grants and they were not dipping into the town's resources.

AAC Member King questioned whether the AAC should change their name since its purview seemed broader than the Mooring Field. Harbormaster Ludwig will get an explanation of how marine operations and the Mooring Field will be divided in the budget. AAC Member Nash suggested thinking about changing the defined responsibilities of the committee instead of the name.

Harbormaster Ludwig stated the Mooring Field occupancy was at about 50%.

He reminded members that some had to submit a renewal form to the town clerk to remain active in the AAC.

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that a new pump was ordered and should arrive today. The complete schedule maintenance system will be in place in July and coordinated with Mark Kincaid. He described the qualifications of the recent hires and noted none of them were certified divers, but they would be. He commented that a person was scheduled to work on Saturday mornings to maintain the facilities. He stated that the Coconut boat ramp was still closed. AAC Member Nash questioned whether it was worth looking at other booking services than Dockwa. Harbormaster Ludwig will research options.

AAC Member King reviewed the slides she created based on the outdated strategic plan. She listed items she felt they should recognize as part of their roadmap for the future. Chair Lurie encouraged members to email comments to Harbormaster Ludwig.

## **VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

AAC Member Schoonover suggested that they publicly announce that the Tropical Shores location for a pump-out facility was not at the top of their list and were investigating other locations.

Chair Lurie brought up commercial versus residential canals and felt the town council should look at the boundaries and rights of residential canals. He indicated it was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mooring Field and hoped to have a Cruiser's Appreciation Day next April.

No items from other members.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Member King stated that he and AAC Member King celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** AAC Member Schoonover moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by AAC Member King.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Adopted 8-26-24 with/without changes. Motion by Comm. MEMBER  
(DATE)

Vote: UNANIMOUS Signature: Sam Lopez

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