

MINUTES
BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS
ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)

Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, June 5, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Simpson.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Jesse Field, Barbara Hill, Ed Schoonover, Betty Simpson and Joy Sullivan.
Excused: John Dussliere and Becky Guidry.

Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge and Parks & Recreation Manager Danielle DiBona.

Council Liaison: Karen Woodson

New member Ed Schoonover introduced himself.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 7, 2024, and April 3, 2024

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to approve the minutes, seconded by BORCAB Member Sullivan.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Hauge summarized his report and noted they were waiting on funding for the pool. A grant was submitted and it is under review. An RFP (Request for Proposal) will be sent out soon for the ballfield and the pickleball courts as part of the redevelopment. Plans for the softball field were online. He noted the backstop padding was installed and the field was open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Two Little League All-Star games were scheduled for June 15, 2024. The restrooms were open including landscaping and pavers. The batting cages were running, but the concessions were not ready yet. He described ongoing repairs in other areas.

Manager DiBona reported that the tennis courts were being resurfaced and the fence around the courts would be replaced. She noted that the free pickleball in May was very successful, with an average of five people per day and 84 participants. Director Hauge recognized Shanette Thomas for playing pickleball with someone who did not have anyone to play with. The men's basketball league started on May 25 and five teams were participating. Manager DiBona shared positive

comments about the rec center. Summer camp started this week and 32 were registered for the after-school program. The Beach Elementary School was holding events at the rec center for most of its school programs. She noted there were a total of 361 memberships and 957 check-ins for May. The fitness classes were scheduled until July. She said the three outdoor pickleball courts were being shared with basketball, but the new ones would be exclusively for pickleball players. Based on community feedback, the tennis courts would remain.

Liaison Woodson questioned whether Wave and Vitality would be in the rec center. Director Hauge was waiting for information from the town attorney. Liaison Woodson described their food and drink products and noted the owner wanted to operate in the rec center.

Director Hauge reassured the community that they were working on getting the pool fixed, but funds were not available yet. He estimated a new pool would cost about \$3 million. The fitness court will be installed on June 10, 2024.

BORCAB Member Hill questioned whether the trailers would be used as part of the community center when the new Town Hall was acquired. Director Hauge replied that he was unsure whether that was a high priority. Liaison Woodson added that the new Town Hall was the number one priority and they may be able to move in by March or April of next year. She recalled that the town council talked about keeping one of the trailers for Bay Oaks. Director Hauge listed the priorities ahead of the use of the trailer. He noted the funds for the new community center were no longer available.

BORCAB Member Sullivan felt discussing long-range planning was a good idea and wondered whether a community center still made sense. BORCAB Member Hill indicated that the community center would be a focal point with many activities. She felt it was more important than ever and would help to get residents back. BORCAB Member Field thought a survey would identify what people wanted and what was important to them, which would help BORCAB set priorities. Director Hauge noted that a brief survey was conducted at a FEMA Resiliency meeting and a bike trail, pocket parks, Newton Beach Park, and Times Square were among the top responses.

Liaison Woodson discussed the R2P2 group. Director Hauge stated that the community center was not off the table, but they needed to find funding.

VII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Director Hauge reported that funding was in place for a few projects and those projects were starting or finishing up. He added that it was hard to discuss anything without money, but long-term planning discussions were important.

BORCAB Member Hill addressed revisiting the Strategic Plan. Liaison Woodson stated that the town council hired an outside firm for a new Strategic Plan since the current one was done in 2017. Director Hauge commented that it might be premature to discuss BORCAB's plan until the town council was done with theirs.

Director Hauge stated that fees would not change for the following year.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

BORCAB Member Schoonover asked for a tour of the facilities.

BORCAB Member Field stated that the bank account with BORCAB Member Hill was set up in Sanibel for the Friends of Bay Oaks non-profit and he would deposit the check. Director Hauge

will check how much BORCAB money was left in the town's account. BORCAB Member Field encouraged residents to volunteer with the Friends. BORCAB Member Hill brought up sponsorships, and Director Hauge described the Friends of the Mound House sponsor program and fundraising activities throughout the year. BORCAB Member Field felt the focus of fundraising should be to create a destination to bring people here and help the community. BORCAB Member Hill suggested that BORCAB Member Field contact Denise Monahan regarding the non-profit. BORCAB Member Sullivan recognized Shanette for jumping in for pickleball. Another pickleball tournament was planned for next March. She felt they should recognize key people who were responsible for bringing people back to Bay Oaks. She proposed a certificate of recognition for Howie. Liaison Woodson and Director Hauge agreed and described his contributions. Director Hauge asked whether BORCAB had ever recognized people. BORCAB Member Sullivan questioned whether meetings were allowed in the gym because the Woman's Club was looking for a place to meet. Director Hauge replied affirmatively. No items from other members.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at noon, with the location to be determined.

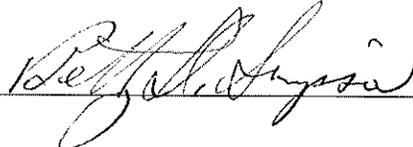
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to adjourn, seconded by BORCAB Member Schoonover.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Adopted 8/21/24 with/without changes. Motion by GUIDRY
DATE

Vote: 5-0 Signature: 

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