

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Monday, August 26, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 – June 21, 2024

Correction: Council Member King congratulated AAC on their 20th anniversary.

MOTION: AAC Member Hockett moved to approve the amended minutes; second by AAC Member Lawwill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that he was discussing a possible rate increase for the Mooring Field. He indicated that the dinghy dock needed minor repairs from Hurricane Debby. The new dinghy dock bid was out, and a section of the dinghy dock would be temporarily put alongside the Matanzas dock during the construction of the fishing pier. A new pump was installed in the pump-out boat, and it ran great. A new engine was ordered for the pontoon boat and should arrive in a couple of weeks.

Maintenance continued and Harbormaster Ludwig indicated that he was looking for contractors to assist with the downlines and balls. The website was updated and more user-friendly. Questions for the website included whether links could be added to the text rather than the bottom of the page, is it possible to add a clickable button on the Facebook home page to link to the Mooring Field page and whether they could add a Mooring Field link to the AAC home page on the town's website. PIO Berzin will follow up on all suggestions. Discussion was held regarding creating a welcome card with pertinent information. AAC Member Nash suggested contacting the Woman's Club about adding information to their packet. PIO Berzin will draft a sample card.

Environmental Projects Manager Chadd Chustz gave an update on the renourishment project.

Harbormaster Ludwig stated that he had a full team and his priority was the dinghy dock. Maintenance of the balls was a priority for the Mooring Field and he continued working with Mark Kincaid. A meeting with the Coast Guard was scheduled for Friday regarding the status of the six balls. There was no update on the location of an upland provider or setting up a separate taxing district.

Harbormaster Ludwig noted that one staff member was a licensed Captain and two were working on it. No one on the team was a certified diver, but he was looking into it.

VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member King shared a wish list of items from Leon, who lived on his boat. She questioned whether it was a good time to redefine responsibilities and roles between the AAC and MERTF (Marine and Environmental Resources Task Force). Liaison Atterholt suggested that the Chairs of each committee meet after reorganization in October. Harbormaster Ludwig listed members up for renewal.

AAC Member Hockett wondered if it was appropriate for the AAC to provide guidance regarding commercial travel in residential canals. A consensus was reached for the AAC to be involved with canal issues, including water taxis. Liaison Atterholt stated that the water ferry company would eventually speak to the AAC about their plans when the time was right. He described the differences between water taxis and ferries.

Chair Lurie noted that a tiered rate system involving length would be complex. However, a tiered system based on location in the field may work. Harbormaster Ludwig replied that conversations were ongoing, but he was leaning toward a flat fee for simplicity. AAC Member Hockett suggested basing a rate increase on the season.

AAC Member Schoonover questioned whether the canals were being maintained. Liaison Atterholt reported that the town hired a firm to do an analysis of the canals.

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that he was working with the town attorneys and others regarding removing derelict vessels. The information would be added to Dockwa. He described how the reservation process was being revamped.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Member King stated that applications to renew membership were due by September 19, 2024, and submitted to Town Clerk Baker.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – September 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

The October meeting will be on the 28th at 9:00 a.m. and subsequent meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: AAC Member Hockett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by AAC Member King.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Adopted 9-10-24 with/without changes. Motion by KING
(DATE)

Vote: UNANIMOUS Signature: 

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