

MINUTES
BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS
ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)
Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, November 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at noon by Chair Simpson.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge

Council Liaison: Karen Woodson

Chair Simpson noted that Jesse Field submitted his resignation due to time constraints.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Hill moved to accept the resignation, seconded by BORCAB Member Schoonover.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE – CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOTION: BORCAB Member Schoonover nominated Betty Simpson as Chair.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Dussliere nominated Barbara Hill as Vice Chair.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –September 18, 2024

MOTION: BORCAB Member Guidry moved to approve the minutes, seconded by BORCAB Member Dussliere.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VII. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Hauge distributed his report. He indicated that Club Rec was using the library and about 25 kids participated. The senior trips were suspended because Danielle DiBona resigned. Director Hauge explained that they would take their time to find the right person. He stated that Helene

and Milton took a toll on the Rec Center and everything was gutted, including the gym floor. The equipment and appliances will be replaced. He indicated they were working with an architect about raising half of the gym by eight feet. Meeting spaces or classes would be under the gym and the rest of the floor could be made up of epoxy or a pickleball court surface indoors. He reported that the roof held up well. BORCAB Member Dussliere described a new surfacing material the military bases were installing and said he would get more information. Director Hauge noted that if the gym could not be raised, epoxy would probably be used on the floor. The new HVAC units will be elevated. The ball field was open and Director Hauge hoped they would not have to resod it again.

Funds for the pool should be allocated in January and the area will be redesigned. BORCAB Member Hill suggested they discuss the design before January and add it to the next agenda. BORCAB Member Dussliere asked to have a PDF of the pool site and buildable borders emailed to them so members can start coming up with ideas. Director Hauge replied positively.

Discussion was held regarding adding the Wave of Vitality vendor to the gym. BORCAB Member Hill noted the town would have to put out a bid for vendors.

Kirkwood Electric was redoing all the conduit and lighting at Bayside Veterans Park and on Old San Carlos. The work should start in the next week or two. Director Hauge described resiliency options to prevent damage from future floods.

VIII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Bay Oaks Redevelopment

Director Hauge reported that the \$2 million grant was extended and a contract had to be signed by December 31, 2024. The scope of work included walking trails, a multipurpose field, pickleball courts, resurfacing and parking. He indicated they would add a bandshell instead of another ballfield and the area would be more open for picnics and walking paths. BORCAB Member Hill suggested they discuss demolishing the gym since it was vulnerable and old. Director Hauge stated the gym was not included in the redevelopment and questioned where funding would come from. He commented they might be able to add a community garden in the space.

BORCAB Member Hill questioned whether they needed an indoor basketball court and members replied that many people utilized it last year. A site plan was displayed on the monitors and Director Hauge pointed out where things would be located. Discussion was held regarding whether BORCAB wanted to wait to redo its Strategic Plan until after the town council completes theirs. BORCAB Member Dussliere commented that the future infrastructure should be planned in the design as things were being built out. He added that it would be harder to deny projects if the infrastructure was already in place.

Discussion was held regarding planting more shade trees at the park along with Florida-friendly storm-resilient landscaping. Thirty-eight coconut palm trees will be ordered and planted in Times Square, Old San Carlos and north Estero.

BORCAB Member Hill thought the county's decision not to install artificial turf in the park was wonderful. Chair Simpson brought up burnt feet from the plastic turf at Bayside and noted people preferred to walk on the sand.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

BORCAB Member Sullivan questioned whether someone other than Pam Berzin was contracted to give pickleball lessons and Director Hauge confirmed that she was the only instructor. She shared a story of a guy kicking a person off the court because he said he was giving lessons. She noted the foundation had funds available for donation and asked for a list of items not covered by

other funds. Director Hauge suggested disc golf or a water station, but he would know more once the park was designed.

BORCAB Member Dussliere thanked Liaison Woodson for inviting him to join the meeting with the decision-makers.

BORCAB Member Guidry declined to replace Jesse Field as the leader of the Friends of Bay Oaks. Director Hauge would like to separate the Friends from BORCAB. Liaison Woodson suggested asking the PTO, but BORCAB Member Guidry stated they were struggling. BORCAB Member Dussliere suggested checking with people they knew. BORCAB Member Hill discussed why the Friends fizzled out and questioned their purpose since the Community Foundation contributed funds to Bay Oaks. She suggested a conversation between the Community Foundation and the town. Liaison Woodson described the Friends of Lover's Key group. BORCAB Member Hill questioned whether the town was allowed to accept donations with a tax write-off and Director Hauge will check. BORCAB Member Guidry pointed out that the town would not hold fundraisers. BORCAB Member Sullivan questioned how many people were left on the beach to volunteer. BORCAB Member Guidry offered to be the contact person for the transition. No items from other members.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – December 18, 2024 at noon. Chair Simpson will not be able to attend due to hip surgery.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Adopted 1/15/25 with/without changes. Motion by Becky Guidry
DATE

Vote: all Signature: Berkman Hill

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