

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Monday, November 25, 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: Chris Riedel King, Ted Lawwill, Sam Lurie, John Wesley Nash, Jennifer Rusk and Ed Schoonover.

Absent: Rebecca Weber

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

Jennifer Rusk introduced herself and explained why she was interested in the AAC.

IV. REORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Chair Lurie nominated Chris King for Chair. Chris King was unanimously appointed Chair.

AAC Member Schoonover nominated Sam Lurie as Vice Chair. Sam Lurie was unanimously appointed Vice Chair.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 16, 2024

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to approve the minutes, seconded by AAC Member Nash.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VII. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Ludwig could not attend, so Operations & Compliance Director Frankie Kropacek read the report. The dinghy dock bid will be awarded during the council meeting on December 2, 2024, and canal debris removal will go through the council on December 2, 2024. He described the challenges of finding funding to remove debris and dredge the canals and estimated it would cost more than \$30 million.

AAC Member Schoonover asked whether Environmental Projects Manager Chadd Chustz provided historical information regarding canal maintenance projects. Director Kropacek will make sure it is available by the next meeting. He stated the town did not have a maintenance program before Ian. Discussion was held regarding the sonar project, Coastal Engineer's survey

of the sediment and environmental issues from not dredging. Director Kropacek did not have an update regarding the sunken vessel by marker 45, but it was on the alert sheet to inform boaters. AAC Member Lurie suggested adding a light so boaters can see it at night, especially at high tide. He brought up the past Laguna Shores assessment and questioned whether the town would do something different the next time. Liaison Atterholt noted it would go through the AAC first.

The new office was in the old communications trailer in the second parking lot.

AAC Member Lurie asked whether they could see a rendering of the new dinghy dock and Director Kropack replied positively.

The town is advertising for two employee positions and will hire temporary help if needed. Director Kropacek discussed finding a location for the upland service facility and noted that Bowditch Point was not in play. He was in contact with the former owner of Matanzas and had a few options on the horizon.

Director Kropacek stated that the pontoon boat had a remanufactured 90-horse engine installed and they were in discussions to obtain grants to purchase newer boats. He described the poor condition of the pontoon boat. He confirmed that the code enforcement boat was stolen. They were looking into buying a multi-purpose boat that would serve many functions.

Director Kropacek described how Dockwa advertised and educated people in the Mooring Field. Communications Coordinator Nicole Berzin discussed advertising with the Chamber of Commerce and providing a goody bag for the boaters. The Mooring Field was now on the front page of the town's website and she was working on an app.

AAC Member Lurie discussed the full fees not being updated on Dockwa and Communications Coordinator Berzin will ensure it gets updated.

AAC Member Rusk brought up the idea of educating boaters regarding adding propeller guards. Director Kropacek replied that they had not discussed the issue but would look into options.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Chair King asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of AAC Member Rusk.

AAC Member Schoonover introduced himself and reviewed his experience. No items.

AAC Member Rusk reviewed her history and experience on the beach. She received a consensus to invite the Captains for Clean Water to present at a future meeting.

AAC Member Lawwill introduced himself and reviewed his history and experience on the beach.

AAC Member Lurie introducing himself and reviewing his history. He provided a summary to the town council at the November 4, 2024 meeting. He noted the Cruiser's Appreciation Day was not on the agenda. The event was usually held after Easter under the bridge and has been held at Matanzas in the past. He described the event and stated he would go into more detail at their next meeting. He read the email he drafted to send to the marinas and boat rental companies regarding the rules of the water. He will send it to the town clerk for distribution to AAC members for their input before obtaining approval from Harbormaster Ludwig.

AAC Member Nash introduced himself and reviewed his experience on the water. No items.

Chair King introduced herself and reviewed her marketing experience. No items.

MOTION: AAC Member Lawwill moved to encourage this effort by AAC Member Lurie and approved the approach, seconded by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Director Kropacek stated that their May 26, 2025 meeting will be moved to May 27, 2025. The December meeting will be held on the 30th at 9:00 a.m. Chair King stated that she would have to call in.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to allow Chair King to call in, seconded by AAC Member Schoonover.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

Liaison Atterholt questioned the status of the Fish Tale Marina. AAC Member Lawwill commented that the new owners intended to reopen it, but it may take a couple of years.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Remove reorganization and add Cruiser's Appreciation Day. Chair King added action items for Harbormaster Ludwig to address at the next meeting and AAC Member Schoonover added to the list.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by AAC Member Schoonover.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Adopted 12/30/24 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: Chris Reed IS

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