

**MINUTES  
BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS  
ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)**

Town Hall Council Chambers  
2731 Oak Street  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Hill.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Michelle Cherney, Becky Guidry, Barbara Hill, Ed Schoonover and Joy Sullivan.

Excused: John Dussliere and Betty Simpson.

Staff: Director Culture, Parks & Recreation Jeff Hauge

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –November 20, 2024**

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

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

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

**V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Director Hauge reported an average of 27 kids at the after-school program. The town should receive the funds for the pool in February or March and once the funds are received, they can start the planning and design. BORCAB Member Sullivan asked whether there would be an opportunity for public input. Director Hauge replied that they could discuss it at a regular meeting. He noted he would email the site plan to members before the next meeting so everyone could review it. He described how the equipment room and other items would be upgraded and noted they had to keep the pool's footprint, but not the pool.

He indicated that programming was on hold since there were only four people to cover the youth program. The insurance company took over Bay Oaks after Helene, Milton and Debbie. Everything was ripped out, including the gym floor. Contracts were in place to replace everything and the entire floor would be epoxy. One side will be primarily for pickleball and the other primarily for basketball, but there will be lines for both on each side, including lines for volleyball. He was unsure whether rubberized epoxy would be used in the weight room or whether they would use mats that could be rolled up. He added that they explored a pulley system to raise the equipment but have not received information yet. He noted that raising the gym floor was still an option. The concession stand and the restrooms at the ball field will be redone soon. Director

Hauge described how the insurance company was taking over the complete remodel and mitigation of the gym, but he did not have a completion date. Vice Chair Hill noted it would be interesting to know Sanibel's solution for their recreation center. Director Hauge described raising the switch gear and commented that insurance would not cover that cost, but it would save the town money in the future.

The bids for redevelopment were too high and the council rejected them. The bid would be reworked and sent out again. The town's trailers will eventually be removed and the property will become a parking lot. Director Hauge noted they had to redo the softball field because they lost a lot of clay. The batting cage was fixed and a 15-20 foot high net will be installed in the back of the outfield to protect the mangroves. The Bay Oaks sign will be installed in a month or two. Director Hauge will check whether the school playground will be open to the public. BORCAB Member Cherney discussed the pickleball nets damaged by people playing basketball at night. She wondered whether they could convert tennis courts into eight pickleball courts and convert one into tennis and basketball. She discussed how the salt water damaged the wheels on the rolling pickleball nets and Director Hauge will order new wheels.

## **VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. Bay Oaks Tennis Court Lines**

Director Hauge indicated that after the redevelopment, they would have four courts on the tennis court, four courts on the basketball court, four courts on the redevelopment and six to eight courts inside. BORCAB Member Cherney described how backed up the pickleball courts were and options and trends were discussed. Director Hauge stated that he would order more pickleball nets as needed. He noted that the restrooms were pressure washed due to bird droppings, but the pickleball players complained about the noise.

### **B. Recreational Programming in Town**

BORCAB Member Cherney discussed 20 - 30 seniors playing softball and how much they enjoyed it.

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

BORCAB Member Guidry asked what to do with the Friends of Bay Oaks, especially since a BORCAB member could not be a board member due to Sunshine Laws. Director Hauge noted that the Friends was a financial arm for fundraising, not a legal arm.

Vice Chair Hill would like to invite the town attorney to share her opinion on whether an individual or corporation can claim a tax deduction when they donate directly to the town and the town restricts that contribution to a particular event. Discussion was held regarding recruiting people for the Friends and Vice Chair Hill reviewed their history.

BORCAB Member Schoonover noted they had the same conversation about the Friends last month and were unable to come to a conclusion. Vice Chair Hill suggested recruiting softball and pickleball players to the Friends. BORCAB Member Sullivan will talk to Howie. She noted that the pickleball tournament would be canceled this year, but she got a grant and there will be a 2026 event.

BORCAB Member Schoonover asked whether the town had park space that was not maintained that the public could utilize. Director Hauge listed the parks available and indicated he would do some research. He added that a bike trail with pocket parks would be nice.

**MOTION:** BORCAB Member Schoonover moved to recommend that the town council look at the purchase of a pocket park as a public benefit opportunity for future developers in addition to providing the land, seconded by BORCAB Member Cherney.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

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

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE** – February 19, 2025 at noon.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

Adopted 2-19-25 with/without changes. Motion by HILL  
DATE

Vote: 7-0 Signature: 

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