

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Monday, February 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chair King.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Chris Riedel King, Ted Lawwill, Sam Lurie, Jennifer Rusk (virtually) and Ed Schoonover.

Excused: John Wesley Nash

Staff Liaison: Harbormaster Curtis Ludwig

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to allow AAC Member Rusk to participate virtually, seconded by AAC Member Lawwill.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 27, 2025

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

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CRUISER APPRECIATION DAY

AAC Member Lawwill explained that the day was meant to show appreciation to the cruisers and suggested that they not bring in a lot of other activities or fundraising events. He proposed that they continue with the format that AAC Member Lurie developed over the years and consider waiting to make changes until they see how it works out. He suggested that AAC Member Lurie be in charge and not let everything get out of control. AAC Member Lurie responded that he was turning the page and bigger may be better. He felt involving the public and expanding it was a good idea. AAC Member Lawwill acknowledged AAC Member Lurie and noted that it was important that the cruisers knew, it was their day. AAC Member Schoonover felt it was a good opportunity to educate the public.

Discussion was held regarding the size of Bayside Park. AAC Member Lurie added that the restaurants had tables near the perimeter. He asked whether they needed a permit. Chair King

will contact the town attorney regarding a permit, fundraising, contacting businesses for raffle items and anything else that comes up in discussions.

AAC Member Rusk reached out to non-profits regarding distributing information. AAC Member Lurie suggested they create a layout at the next meeting to see what would fit.

Harbormaster Ludwig forwarded a list of raffle items to members that AAC Member Nash had secured. AAC Member Lurie indicated that it was important to assign businesses so they do not approach anyone more than once. He will research ordering key chains. Discussion was held regarding whether to put a sponsor's name on the keychain and the consensus was not to.

MOTION: AAC Member Lawwill moved to budget \$500.00 for key chains, seconded by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to rescind the above motion until Harbormaster Ludwig could verify his budget, seconded by AAC Member Lawwill.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Chair King moved to allow AAC Member Lurie to prepare the order but not order anything until they meet with the town attorney, seconded by AAC Member Schoonover.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Harbormaster Ludwig will forward a list of promised raffle items to members. He will check on the number of tables and chairs available from the town.

VII. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Ludwig distributed his report and explained how the canals were assessed using different colors. Eighteen canals still contained debris and he will ask the town council for a 30-day extension so they can continue. FEMA will reimburse the town. He noted the contractors submitted a report of the debris collected. The canal assessment will start the maintenance record and data will be added moving forward. He provided details of some of the worst canals.

The dinghy dock project should start in the late spring or early summer. The mooring field was about 15 balls from being full and he was still working on balls 4-9. He indicated that several reservations were coming in daily. He was still searching for a third marine operator.

The financial report showed revenue from the last three months. Liaison Atterholt suggested that Finance Director Joe Onzick attend a future meeting to discuss financials. AAC Member Lawwill described how difficult it was to obtain details in the past.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Lurie stated that the renourishment was spectacular and noted the \$10 million was taxpayer's money. He will research which canals were public and private by the next meeting.

Chair King said they still needed to schedule a Sunshine Law review. Liaison Atterholt indicated that Communications Coordinator Nicole Berzin posted the open committee position on the town's website. Chair King was impressed by Captain Wittman's information. Liaison Atterholt commented that it was important to contact legislators and that he would spread the word. Chair King noted the 2017 ordinance established the mooring field and the duties of the AAC; however,

when the Harbor Management Plan was rewritten, many of the AAC duties were not in there. AAC Member Lawwill asked whether the original ordinance was still in effect. Chair King will contact the town attorney for more information.

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved that Chair King contact the town attorney regarding the Harbor Management Plan, seconded by AAC Member Lawwill.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

AAC Member Schoonover requested that Harbormaster Ludwig forward the color-coded canal report to members. Liaison Atterholt asked that it be posted on the town's website.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – March 24, 2025

Add Director Onzick and Communications Coordinator Berzin.

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to approve the agenda, seconded by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m., seconded by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Adopted 3/24/25 with/without changes. Motion by Jed Lawwill
(DATE)

Vote: unanimous Signature: Chris Reed

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