

MINUTES
BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS
ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)

Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Michelle Cherney, John Dussliere, Becky Guidry (arrived late), Barbara Hill, Ed Schoonover, Betty Simpson and Joy Sullivan (virtually).

Town Staff: Community Services Director Jeff Hauge and Parks & Recreation Manager Neill Mathes.

MOTION: BORCAB Member Schoonover moved to allow BORCAB Member Sullivan to participate virtually, seconded by BORCAB Member Hill.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 26, 2025

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

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Hauge reported that the CDBG funds were still being reviewed. Two bids would be sent out for Bay Oaks. One will prepare the area and the other to do the grass work and pickleball courts. The number of pickleball courts will be based on the cost, but there will be at least four.

Manager Mathes continued with the progress made at the rec center. The two HVAC units were installed and elevated outside. The vapor barrier and paint prep work started and the electrical work will begin next week. The epoxy painting and plumbing should be in progress by the last week of April. They were on track to open at the end of May.

New white vinyl fencing was ordered to wrap around the playground, new light bollards were ordered to replace the wooden blue lights that were no longer working and new pickleball nets were installed. The lines have not been painted yet, but the company should be able to do the work in a couple of weeks. Manager Mathes noted that In case of Emergency signs were installed on the courts. The strength and cardio equipment should be ordered within two weeks and arrive by the time they open. He reported that it would cost \$5,500.00 to remove the equipment and store it

for one day and \$6,000.00 for two days in the event of a hurricane. Storing it was \$500.00 per day.

Manager Mathes was waiting for the third bid to fix the bridge at the rec center and hoped it would be complete sometime in May. He reviewed the Easter event and noted it was a success. Aquatic Supervisor Erin was in charge of the event, and everyone, including the staff and volunteers, did a great job. Summer program registration was open and classes start June 9, 2025.

BORCAB Member Sullivan asked about extending memberships because the facility was closed for so long. Manager Mathes replied that they would prorate those who paid for a membership.

He reviewed upcoming programs, including STEM and Easter fun days. A senior rec person will be hired to oversee the BOSS program and two part-time aids to help with all yearlong programming.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Beach Accesses

Director Hauge reported that the mobi mats will be put back on the beach after the renourishment project is complete. He indicated that 17 of the tall beach access signs on Estero had to be removed and repaired because the welds on the bottom were questionable. The rest were being inspected. The small beach access signs would be installed after the auger for the Bobcat was available. After the renourishment project is done, a bid will go out for vegetation at the accesses. Director Hauge indicated that after the dune planting is finished, he will talk to Environmental Projects Manager Chadd Chustz about putting benches there. He noted that they had several memorial benches they could use on the beach. Some money for new bike racks was available through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) because they lost many in the hurricane.

Director Hauge reported that beach access 17A was open with about eight parking spots and restrooms were available to the public. Beach walks will resume on June 1, 2025.

VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

BORCAB Member Cherney distributed a sheet regarding a potential park on the south end. She found two people to participate in the Friends of Bay Oaks. She mentioned last month that they would contact the school's principal to get access to the park. Manager Mathes responded that it was in the works.

BORCAB Member Schoonover asked the cure time for the epoxy. Manager Mathes was told it could be two to three weeks. BORCAB Member Schoonover wanted to keep discussing pocket parks because they were valuable to the town.

BORCAB Member Hill thanked BORCAB Members Cherney and Schoonover for being proactive on the parks. She wanted the council to be aggressive in procuring parks.

BORCAB Member Sullivan asked whether another council member could substitute when Liaison Woodson could not attend the meetings. BORCAB Member Hill stated that any member could give a status report at the town council meetings to keep items front and center.

BORCAB Member Guidry sent the check for the Friends on April 2, 2025.

BORCAB Member Dussliere discussed the importance of the Friends to raise funds. He asked the mayor about adding exercise equipment along Estero and the mayor discussed priorities and money. BORCAB Member Dussliere mentioned having a workshop to discuss what they were responsible for and providing feedback to the town. BORCAB Member Cherney asked about getting the original documents regarding setting up the Friends. BORCAB Member Hill explained that Manager Mathes had to call her so they could arrange a time for them to meet with Denise Monahan, who would help with information.

BORCAB Member Sullivan stated that the FMB Community Foundation voted to give Bay Oaks funds to replace the Halloween decorations and to buy a play table if funds were left over. Chair Simpson felt the Friends should be set up before the workshop meeting. BORCAB Member Cherney asked Manager Mathes to contact the four candidates for the Friends as soon as possible. He agreed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – May 21, 2025, at noon

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Adopted _____ with/without _____ changes. Motion by
_____ DATE

Vote: _____ Signature: _____