

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Tuesday, May 27, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair King.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Ron Fleming, Chris Riedel King, Ted Lawwill, Sam Lurie, John Wesley Nash, Jennifer Rusk and Ed Schoonover.

Staff Liaison: Harbormaster Curtis Ludwig

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 2, April 10, April 16, April 22 & April 28, 2025

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the April 2 minutes, seconded by AAC Member Fleming.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the April 10 minutes, seconded by AAC Member Schoonover.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the April 16 minutes, seconded by AAC Member Nash.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the April 22 minutes, seconded by AAC Member Fleming.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the April 28 minutes, seconded by AAC Member Rusk.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that the mooring balls were being cleaned and they were on the second field. The new boat is expected to be complete in approximately four to five months. Naming the boat was mentioned. Harbormaster Ludwig described the capabilities of the new boat. The dinghy dock was not built correctly for the existing pilings and would be corrected. It should be complete by the end of the summer. All vacant positions have been filled and contractors will continue to do the diving due to liability issues. Crystal Engineering will reinstall the yellow special-purpose buoys in June. The debris removal contract had expired and the reports were sent to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency); he hoped to receive approval for another extension.

Harbormaster Ludwig reviewed the financial data he sent to members. A discussion was held regarding making changes to the report to extract additional information.

Liaison Atterholt brought up the concept that the Mooring Field might be competing with the marinas and a discussion ensued.

AAC Member Nash will send a list of media outlets to Communications Director, Nicole Berzin. She will release information to the media when a final debris report from the canals is generated. Chair King summarized the documents she had sent out for discussion at the next meeting. The documents included a channel canal maintenance overview and several other documents to review and determine the responsibilities of the AAC.

VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Rusk asked for an update on the ramps. Harbormaster Ludwig responded that he was working on Coconut.

AAC Member Lurie noted that Marco Island had approved dredging 100 miles of canals. He suggested that they get information from them. He thought that dredging the town's canals would be complicated because the chemicals and contaminants at the bottom would not float and would go in and out with the tide. Harbormaster Ludwig replied that they could boom off each canal to keep oil and contaminants from drifting into the bay. He added that many steps would be taken to develop a final plan. AAC Member Lurie congratulated Harbormaster Ludwig on his first anniversary.

AAC Member Lawwill read his evaluation of Cruiser's Appreciation Day and felt that the cruisers were honored and the event was a positive experience. He thought the theme next year could be to promote the Mooring Field. AAC Member Lurie commented that Tina had done a great job of supporting the AAC for years and should be an honorary member. Chair King stated that Easter was April 5 next year and asked whether they wanted to hold the event the week before or after. AAC Member Lurie suggested the week after due to traffic. Chair King will check the calendar. AAC Member Schoonover inquired whether there were regulations regarding seawall products. He commented that some people had rip rap rather than concrete or steel. Harbormaster Ludwig indicated that rip rap was placed in front of their seawall to protect it. He will research the regulations.

Chair King asked Liaison Atterholt for a follow-up regarding the derelict vessel legislation email he sent. Harbormaster Ludwig replied that the owners would be held responsible and it would be easier to remove them. AAC Member Lurie revealed that the vessel on ball 47 was owned by Kathy (former AAC Chair) and Jay Light, who sold it a month before Ian and the new owners should be easy to locate.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – June 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (tentatively)

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Adopted 8/6/25 with/without changes. Motion by JM Wsby Nat
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: Chris Reed 15