

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Bay Oaks Campus
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, August 6, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair King.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Ron Fleming

Staff Liaison: Harbormaster Curtis Ludwig and Community Development Director Frankie Kropacek.

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 27, 2025

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

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Ludwig provided an overview of the Mooring Field. Mooring ball 47 was removed, but it was not available because the system was destroyed. An RFP (Request for Proposal) was out to repair the system. Updates included the installation of the yellow special-purpose buoys for all three fields, the new boat was being built and should be complete in three to four months and he should have a date for installation of the dinghy dock next week. The debris removal contract for the canals has been closed and reimbursement paperwork has been submitted to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). The cost was estimated at just under \$2 million.

Discussions were being held regarding repaving the Coconut boat ramp. Harbormaster Ludwig, the town manager and the deputy town manager met with the CO of the Coast Guard Station to discuss hurricane preparations and getting balls four through nine back in service. Conversations with the Army Corps of Engineers were ongoing regarding realigning the channel, among other projects.

Vice Mayor Atterholt asked what the town advised boaters in the Mooring Field to do when a storm was approaching, based on Ian. Harbormaster Ludwig replied that the advice will be to seek shelter elsewhere, but he indicated the Mooring Field was considered a safe haven. However, he

did not recommend that boaters stay on their vessels and ride out the storm. A discussion was held concerning whether the town was liable for damages.

Harbormaster Ludwig referred to the report and reviewed the number of reservation dates pulled from Dockwa, the revenue for the month, the numbers for each ball and how many boats were on each ball every day. Chair King indicated that occupancy, opportunity and revenue were her priorities. AAC Member Lawwill commented that previous reports indicated how many boats were on the balls each day. Harbormaster Ludwig noted the competition was for location, not ball capacity. A discussion was held regarding the data provided in the report. AAC Member Lawwill proposed a second meeting to review the addition of different data. Harbormaster Ludwig suggested taking members to the Mooring Field to give them a better picture of the vision. Vice Mayor Atterholt suggested taking the camera operator with them. Harbormaster Ludwig will check with the town attorney.

Discussion returned to the report and adding revenue figures from the last two years. Harbormaster does not have the budget for FY26 yet. (Director Kropacek had to leave the meeting.) He explained that the deficit for the Mooring Field was partially due to items that have not been reimbursed by FEMA yet. A discussion was held regarding receiving more accurate information during the budget hearings. Chair King revealed the surplus from their event was \$1,577.36.

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to claim the surplus of \$1,577.36 plus an additional \$500.00 from the Mooring Field revenues for a total of about \$2,000.00 for their budget, seconded by AAC Member Rusk.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Rusk noted that water quality monitoring was now in place at the Mound House, with details available on the town's website and a QR code at the site.

AAC Member Lurie brought up the survivor TV show featuring Fort Myers Beach during Ian. He wondered if Environmental Projects Manager Chadd Chutz could piggyback on the canal dredging in Cape Coral and Marco Island. He would like the AAC to be included in the water taxi and water ferry discussions. Vice Mayor Atterholt commented that Fishtale would include water ferries in their project. AAC Member Lurie described shuttle services. He shared compliments from boaters for Harbormaster Ludwig.

Chair King mentioned the canal dredging document, the boat naming contest, and preparing for Cruiser's Appreciation Day on April 12 next year.

Vice Mayor Atterholt stated that the swim buoys dividing the jet skiers would be put back after the beach renourishment is completed in that section of the beach.

No items from other members.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – August 20, 2025, at noon

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Adopted 9/20/25 with/without changes. Motion by Sam Luna
(DATE)

Vote: 5-0 Signature: Chris Reed 15