

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

Town Hall Council Chambers  
6231 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Hill.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Hill revealed that Chair Simpson recently passed away and she will be missed.

Members present: <sup>Michele</sup>Michelle Cherney, John Dussliere (virtually), Becky Guidry, Barbara Hill, Ed Schoonover and Joy Sullivan.

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

Town Council Liaison: Karen Woodson

BORCAB members agreed to allow BORCAB Member Dussliere to participate virtually.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 25, 2025**

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

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Howie Hoffman*

~~Howard Huff~~, resident, wanted the island to be better than it ever was and he thinks they could do that by making full use of Bay Oaks. He mentioned that it would be nice to have shade on the walking path. He commented on how far south the new town hall was.

Rick Loughrey, resident, submitted a letter of intent to join BORCAB. He remembered Betty Simpson and her involvement in the community. He asked about the budget and plans to rebuild. He described his past involvement with Bay Oaks programs.

**V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Director Hauge noted that the town council asked staff to propose cuts to bridge the budget deficit of \$1.9 million. About \$500,000.00 was cut from the Bay Oaks budget, including special events, an athletics coordinator, three rec aids, program supplies and the hours of operation were reduced among other services. Liaison Woodson noted the budget was still being discussed. BORCAB Member Cherney suggested raising fees and Liaison Woodson pointed out that the Friends of Bay Oaks could also help raise funds for events. Director Hauge indicated that the fees would be

slightly raised. Discussion was held regarding the lack of residents, increasing fees, cutting hours and reorganization of the Friends.

Town Manager Will McKannay thanked BORCAB for their involvement in the community. He addressed the budget, noting the goal was to continue providing as many services as possible.

Director Hauge stated the pool was moving forward and described the next steps. BORCAB Member Dussliere discussed how much of a draw the pool will be. Director Hauge described the bid process for the pool. A discussion was held regarding the challenges of finding contractors to do any work on the beach at a reasonable cost.

Director Hauge indicated that he has not had any luck regarding opening access to the school-owned park. Town Manager McKannay replied that they were in contact with the school leadership and would continue to bring up the topic.

Director Hauge said they had the mobi mats and trees will be added to the picnic area. He was researching adding a shade sail over the fitness court and pickleball courts and extending holes for frisbee golf. He stated that he was researching whether Bay Oaks could be open without staff present.

BORCAB Member Cherney discussed the placement of the pickleball courts and Director Hauge explained why they had to be installed that way. BORCAB Member Sullivan asked if they could have input regarding where the rules and paddles were set up.

Manager Mathes noted that the fitness equipment is in place, the temporary fence has been redone, and bollards have been added to the sidewalks right before the bridge. Additionally, two picnic tables are expected to be installed next week and a Hours of Operations sign will be added. He described the new co-ed pickleball program starting on October 21, 2025, and noted details were on the Facebook page. The grand opening will be on October 15, 2025. Manager Mathes added that program flyers and brochures were distributed throughout the town and described current and upcoming programs. He noted that there were 225 kids in summer camp, 24 registered for Club Rec, 229 check-ins at the gym between August 18 and August 30, 2025, open basketball averaged 8-15 participants and there were 164 players for indoor pickleball.

BORCAB Member Sullivan asked for an update on the concession stand and suggested updating the social seniors' name. Manager Mathes will research the Silver Sneakers program.

## **VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. Friends of Bay Oaks Committee**

BORCAB Member Cherney stated that the kick-off meeting was on September 29, 2025, via Zoom and in person in October. The bank account was set up and some funds were deposited.

### **B. Bay Oaks Park Project Improvements**

Covered by Manager Mathes.

### **C. Upcoming Programming and Events**

Covered by Manager Mathes.

**VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

BORCAB Member Guidry noted her term was up and she would not reapply. BORCAB Members Cherney, Hill and Sullivan indicated their terms were up, but they were reapplying. Vice Chair Hil was not interested in continuing as Vice Chair or Chair. No items from other members.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Howard stated that lights had to be turned on the field for the leagues. He preferred to hold the meetings at Bay Oaks.

Mr. Loughrey added that lights had to be turtle-compliant. Contractors did not want to bid on beach projects because of the rules. He recommended no fee hike. He asked about the status of the coating on the roof. He described the history of the concession stand. The community supported Bay Oaks, but they were never given the opportunity to vote on funding Bay Oaks because the town council did not present it well when discussing the millage rate. He supported allowing the public to speak longer than three minutes.

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE – October 15, 2025, at noon.**

Add concessions update.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Adopted 10-22-25 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: [Handwritten Signature]