

**MINUTES**  
**BAY OAKS RECREATIONAL CAMPUS**  
**ADVISORY BOARD (BORCAB)**  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
6231 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cherney.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Michele Cherney, Barbara Hill, Rick Loughrey, Anne Neaf, Ed Schoonover and Joy Sullivan.

Excused: John Dussliere

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

Town Council Liaison: Rebecca Link

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 22, 2025**

In the September minutes, Howie's last name is Hoffman, not Huffman.

**MOTION:** BORCAB Member Hill moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by BORCAB Member Schoonover.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Karen Woodson, a resident, reported that she was elected President of the Friends of Bay Oaks and had a full acting board. She indicated they needed volunteers. She read the mission statement and will forward it to BORCAB members for feedback. They are also creating a logo and expect it to be completed in a couple of weeks. A holiday welcome event will be held on December 3, 2025, from 4:30 to 7:00 at 5921 Estero Blvd.

**V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Manager Mathes reviewed his report and noted that 25 kids were in the after-school program, 59 new memberships, 21 daily passes, 8 pickleball passes, 16 on the first BOSS trip and 764 daily check-ins. Friday open basketball averaged 12-16, the fitness classes were picking up, and fun days will be held next week, Monday through Wednesday. An adult co-ed dodgeball league starts January 20, 2026, a parents' night out is scheduled for December 5, 2025, if parents want to drop their kids off, a free family holiday event with a live book reading is offered on December 18, 2025, and a wellness health fair is scheduled for January 28, 2026, in partnership with Lee Health.

A USA Powerlifting regional competition was held on November 8, 2025, with about 150 people in attendance. The Beach Kids Foundation pickleball tournament was held last weekend and was a success.

The rack cards will be redesigned and distributed after the holidays. Director Hauge added that the staff did an incredible job with the programming despite the budget cuts and he recognized the community for supporting the events.

The Little League of Fort Myers and Senior Softball were using the field and the walking path will be made out of concrete for easy access and maintenance. Park impact funds will be used to add shade sails at the pickleball and fitness courts. Director Hauge discussed the impact of the budget cuts and will send the link to the budget discussion to members.

## **VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. Concession Stand**

The concession stand will be used for offices, but the kitchen in the rec center could be upgraded with items such as a popcorn machine, a hot-dog roller, and a pretzel stand. Director Hauge mentioned that maybe the Friends could help staff it. BORCAB Member Sullivan reported that the Community Foundation donated approximately \$9,000.00 and she will check whether some of the funds could be redirected to other items. A list of requested items with prices was created and Director Hauge will retrieve it.

### **B. Bay Oaks Recreation Center Roof Coating**

Manager Mathes noted that the company that sealed the roof last time inspected it and indicated that some screws needed to be replaced, but the coating was in pretty good shape. He revealed the screws were approximately \$5,000.00. Director Hauge will forward the report from Lee County when the town acquired Bay Oaks and will read through the warranty.

### **C. Bay Oaks Recreation Center Indoor Pickleball Hours**

Manager Mathes stated that a lot of people were playing outside right now, but he thought that during season, the courts could be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Chair Cherney said she was receiving requests for after-hours access to the gym. Director Hauge responded that he had quotes from Soft Trim, but he has not heard back from the insurance company regarding liability.

### **D. Demand Star for Community Pool**

One bid for the pool design was received from Opulent Outlines in Fort Myers and the documents looked good.

### **E. Silver Sneakers Program**

BORCAB Member Loughrey reported that it was a six to eight-week process for an answer and he was speaking with an agent right now. A program representative will let them know

whether the town can offer the program again. He hoped to have an answer by the next meeting.

#### **F. Strategic Goals and Marketing**

The rack card is being updated with new pricing, and Manager Mathes hopes to have it soon. He described a company called Peach Jar for school flyers and noted they charged \$25.00 per event. He heard conflicting feedback, but felt it was worth trying with one school. Director Hauge was not sure how effective it was. He noted the town was looking for a digital marketing and special events coordinator in addition to the public information officer position. Manager Mathes indicated that the deputy town manager was posting information to Facebook in the interim.

A discussion was held about a town policy for recognizing community members with a memorial bench, plaque, tree leaf, or other memorial. BORCAB Member Hill would like the town council to establish a policy. Director Hauge clarified that there were statutes that allowed naming rights.

Chair Cherney asked what they could do to reopen the park. Director Hauge replied that they were working on it.

### **VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS**

BORCAB Member Schoonover asked about an update on the pocket parks. Director Hauge did not have an answer.

BORCAB Member Sullivan thanked Manager Mathes for the fun BOSS trip. She participated in the senior softball and was having a great time.

BORCAB Member Hill asked about the shade sail installation for the fitness court. Director Hauge replied that the shade sail would be installed at the same time as the pickleball court sail. BORCAB Member Hill thanked Chair Cherney for getting the advisory board up and running.

BORCAB Member Neaf is certified in aqua yoga and was looking forward to the pool opening. She asked where to direct people who wanted to volunteer. Chair Cherney replied that she could direct them to the Friends website and the Bay Oaks Facebook. Manager Mathes added that the application was being updated and background checks with fingerprints were required.

BORCAB Member Loughrey asked what the fee was for a special event and whether it could be waived. Director Hauge responded that only the town council could waive the fee. BORCAB Member Loughrey noted that some of the special events were being held at other locations. He wondered whether the fees and the process made it harder. Director Hauge replied that he signed off on five today and he had not heard that the process was a deterrent. BORCAB Member Loughrey requested access to the Newton Beach Park plans.

Chair Cherney reported that an individual was funding additional pickleball courts and she just found out that they were approved by the town manager. Director Hauge stated that they would meet next week regarding the details. He sketched out where they would be located.

### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.**

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND DATE** – January 21, 2026, at noon.

Add maintenance budget, FOB system for the gym, the park behind the school and upcoming special events.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cherney adjourned the meeting.

Adopted 1/21/25 with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: Michael Cherney