

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town Hall
6231 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Monday, November 24, 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, Sam Lurie, John Wesley Nash and Ed Schoonover.

Excused/Absent: Ted Lawwill and Jennifer Rusk.

Staff Liaison: Harbormaster Curtis Ludwig

Council Liaison: Jim Atterholt (via phone)

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 27, 2025

Ron Fleming did not reapply to the AAC and Mari Torgerson's first name was misspelled as Mary.

MOTION: AAC Member Schoonover moved to approve the **amended** minutes, seconded by AAC Member Lurie.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Ludwig reported that there were about 10 boats in the front, 12-13 in the back and two sunken vessels that had been tagged for removal. The Matanzas Inn contract will be renegotiated after the first of the year. Discussions were ongoing regarding realigning and dredging Matanzas Pass to allow balls 4-9 to eventually be put back in service.

Harbormaster Ludwig reviewed the roundtable meeting regarding the no-wake zones in the back bay. Another meeting will be held after the first of the year with boat rental companies to discuss ways to educate boaters. The back bay is patrolled on certain days and in certain areas; however, the LCSO (Lee County Sheriff's Office) is currently short-staffed. A discussion was held about how rental companies can regulate rentals in no-wake or slow-speed zones.

The AAC's roles and responsibilities were reviewed by the town manager and are now with the town attorney. The edited version was included with the agenda packet. Chair King asked for permission to present the document to the town council meeting on Monday.

MOTION: AAC Member Schnoonover moved to allow Chair King to present the roles and responsibilities to the town council, seconded by AAC Member Nash.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Harbormaster Ludwig announced that they picked up the new town vessel last week and it will be a great asset to the town. The trailer for the recovered stolen vessel was in rough shape. The boat engine will be tuned up on December 8, 2025, at Fishtale Marina. He hoped it would be ready to go by the first of the year. He did not know what they were going to do with the pontoon boat. Plans to name the new boat and other details would be posted on social media. Harbormaster Ludwig described the boats in the inventory and indicated that they would not receive much for the pontoon boat if they sold it. The new boat replaces the pontoon boat and they will keep the pontoon's engine. The enforcement boat will be housed at the south end of the island.

Reservations were picking up, but six boats that used to be on mooring balls were now in the front or back anchorages. Harbormaster Ludwig questioned the claim that boats in the anchorage were illegally dumping, noting that they were closely monitored. If they were illegally dumping, he needed to know so he could follow up.

VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Lurie thanked Liaison Atterholt for continuing to be involved.

Chair King noted her report to the town council last month went well and she received permission to hold the Cruiser's Appreciation Day in April.

Harbormaster Ludwig confirmed that the boundary line was 1,000 feet from the shoreline.

No items from other members.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Objectives for the Upcoming Year – M&P Discussion – rescheduling

Harbormaster Ludwig felt that priorities should be to grow the Mooring Field, obtain a permanent upland facility, make the back bay more attractive to residents and increase marketing. Chair King suggested promoting education and expanding Cruiser's Appreciation Day. AAC Member Schoonover revealed that what they spent on the facilities at Matanzas was about equal to the budget gap. Harbormaster Ludwig agreed and commented that obtaining a permanent facility would help the town tremendously.

Liaison Atterholt discussed ways the town can partner with the water ferry and suggested everyone start talking to each other. Harbormaster Ludwig replied that they were planning to install the old dinghy dock at the Mound House in advance of future plans. A discussion was held regarding the operational timeline, opportunities and responsibilities of the Arches project. Chair King summarized the discussion.

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve Chair King's list to present to the town council, seconded by AAC Member Nash.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

B. Cruiser's Appreciation Day Discussion and Planning

Chair King emailed a Cruiser's outline to members for discussion. Harbormaster Ludwig

will reach out to contractors and vendors. Chair King noted that the list of nonprofits was comprehensive and questioned whether there was room for more. AAC Member Nash suggested contacting them for their schedule. AAC members listed whom they would reach out to and the duties they would be responsible for. AAC Member Lurie indicated they had to make an effort to get the Mooring Field patrons to attend. He did not think they should approach anyone until next year and assignments could be solidified then. Chair King will send out suggested assignments for discussion at their next meeting. AAC Member Nash suggested thinking about who was not approached last year and whether they would like to add them to the target list.

Filling the vacancy on the committee was discussed.

Harbormaster Ludwig noted he had been there for a year and thanked the members for their support.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – January 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Adopted 1/26/26 with/without changes. Motion by Sam Wasy Nah
(DATE)

Vote: unanimous Signature: Chris Needles K

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