

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Light. Members present: Robert Beasley, William Kubicek III, Ted Lawwill, Katherine Light, Sam Lurie and Mike Ratliff.

Absent: Greg Holmes

Staff: Austin Gilchrist and Chelsea O'Riley.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Moyer, requested that they address expanding the Mooring Field.

IV. REORGANIZATION

MOTION: Mr. Beasley nominated Katherine Light as Chair; second by Mr. Lawwill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Light nominated Mr. Lurie as Vice Chair; second by Mr. Lawwill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2018

The April minutes were not available.

MOTION: Mr. Lurie moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. Kubicek III.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. MOORING FIELD AND STAFF REPORT

Mr. Gilchrist reported that they were gearing up for season. The back 50 was closed until the field filled up. He stated that there were currently about 15 occupants in the field. He indicated that everything was clean and complete and they were just waiting for people to show up. He commented that he pulled the lines to keep them from rotting and it was an easy process to put them back in. The Town is working on issues with three vessels and they were up to date on rent. He described a new inspection program to ensure every vessel met requirements.

Mr. Gilchrist commented that the Sheriff was patrolling the field on Saturdays to check vessels. He noted they received complaints from occupants regarding the Sheriff but everyone had to abide

by the law. He provided the blueprint for the dinghy dock. Mark Kincaid, Coastal Engineering, indicated that the blueprint was permit drawings. He stated that they were successful in obtaining approximately \$63,000.00 for maintenance and repair of the dinghy dock. He described the differences in the new plans, which included elevation of the dock and extending the deck back into the parking lot. The dock would be shifted seaward and another float added to the back side of the gangway, increasing the dock space. A 6'x10' floating dock section on the back was also proposed. He explained the process to replace the guide piles with steel pipe piles and how the pipes would be protected from saltwater. He hoped to be able to replace some of the damaged floats with the grant funds.

Mr. Beasley described an epoxy finish to protect pipes from saltwater. Mr. Kincaid noted that the finish would eventually break down but the HDPE (high-density polyethylene) system would not and it should be maintenance free and last for years. Mr. Ratliff clarified details regarding the HDPE system. Mr. Lurie questioned the timeline. Mr. Kincaid replied that it depended on obtaining permits.

Mr. Kincaid stated that they were working on the Town's behalf with the Coast Guard regarding the anchorage area designation. He discussed the benefits of being classified as a mooring area including not having to burn anchor lights at night while in the designated area. Mr. Kincaid stated the Coast Guard determined that the Mooring Field was too close to the channel despite the fact that four other designated anchorage areas were closer to the channel than they were. He noted that details were not provided, but the closest area to the channel was at the turning basin. Mr. Lawwill questioned whether the Federal channel existed since it was replaced with a County marker. Mr. Kincaid will follow up and report back to the AAC.

VII. MAINTENANCE

Chair Light questioned the lack of shoal signs on a piling near the bridge. Mr. Gilchrist will look into it.

Ms. O'Riley stated that staff would like to review the contract with Matanzas to make sure they were fulfilling their agreement. She indicated that staff would research and compare the in house and out of house costs of upland services, if AAC was interested. Mr. Ratliff stated that he would prefer to see concrete proposals before they consider replacing Matanzas. Mr. Lurie questioned whether they could negotiate with Matanzas to add services rather than bring it in house. Ms. O'Riley replied affirmatively but noted it would probably cost more and may affect the Town's cost share. She commented that it was a control aspect as well.

Mr. Lurie requested copies of the certified review of the finances for the Mooring Field. Ms. O'Riley will provide copies. Discussion was held regarding upland provider services. Ms. O'Riley proposed putting together a budget for their review and comments. Mr. Beasley stated that it would not hurt to look at both ends but he was concerned regarding a suitable location. Ms. O'Riley noted that she would like the Mooring Field to fund itself as much as possible and reduce the general funds' contribution. Mr. Lawwill questioned how much money they were losing. Ms. O'Riley will email the information.

MOTION: Mr. Lurie moved that the AAC instruct staff to look into the comparison between privately running the Mooring Field and running it themselves; second by Mr. Lawwill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. MOORING FIELD WELCOME PACKET

Chair Light noted the packet will go out to patrons. Mr. Gilchrist stated that one of the reasons they wanted to bring the service in house was to improve the quality of customer care. Chair Light suggested that they review the information and she offered to edit the document. She commented that the recommended mooring ball attachments illustration was hard to see. Mr. Gilchrist indicated that he would like to include different vessels and he will update the graphics.

IX. DINGHY DOCK REGISTRATION

Chair Light suggested affixing the registration on top of the engine. Mr. Gilchrist noted that it had to be visible. Chair Light addressed errors and confusing statements in the information. Mr. Lurie questioned where to put stickers on dinghies without engines. Mr. Gilchrist replied that the location of the decal did not matter as long as it was visible. Chair Light suggested replacing the word vessel with dinghy to avoid confusion. Mr. Ratliff suggested linking the mooring ball to the dinghy decal to identify the mothership. Mr. Gilchrist explained that their registration system linked motherships to dinghies and he felt that adding a mooring number would cause confusion. Mr. Ratliff explained that he would want to know how many people used the dinghy dock and how many belonged in the Mooring Field. Mr. Gilchrist stated that he just needed a phone number to address issues. He indicated that all dinghies must register at Matanzas regardless of how long they planned to stay. He reported that people were receptive of the registration process.

X. CRUISER'S APPRECIATION DAY

The date is Saturday, April 6, 2019.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON ITEMS & REPORT – remove from agenda.

XII. MEMBERS ITEMS & REPORTS

Mr. Lurie stated that Council Member Boback questioned expanding the Mooring Field. Mr. Lurie noted that it was not an easy process and would take years. Chair Light confirmed that there were many hoops to go through, the depth was not adequate and it would be expensive. She noted it was not feasible. Mr. Lurie relayed positive comments from an occupant regarding the pump-out voucher.

Chair Light brought up updating their advertisement content. She discussed exploring changing rates from daily to weekly or weekly to monthly. She noted it was not a refund but a change in rate. Mr. Lurie indicated that it was a courtesy. Mr. Beasley commented that if someone stayed long enough to qualify for a discounted rate than they got that rate. Mr. Gilchrist stated that it would be up to Matanzas to determine how they would implement the discounted system.

MOTION: Mr. Beasley moved to recommend that patrons be allowed to transition from a daily to a weekly or a weekly to a monthly rate if they extend their stay so they were paying the lowest rate they were eligible for; second by Mr. Lurie.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Moyer, member of the public, pointed out that a lot of locals on the hook were spending a lot of money locally. He questioned the capacity of the new dock. Mr. Gilchrist replied that it would be roughly five additional dinghies. Mr. Moyer discussed Ordinance 18-06 regarding qualifications for membership and terminating members on advisory committees.

XIV. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Remove Council Items & Reports and Reorganization.

Add update on Mooring Field advertising and the comparison report from Ms. O’Riley.

Mr. Lurie noted that their next meeting was the day before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Lurie moved to skip the November meeting and meet on December 19, 2018. (No second or vote.)

XV. ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Lurie moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Beasley

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Adopted _____ with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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