



Fort Myers Beach Management & Planning Session

**Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Minutes

Thursday, May 4, 2023

9:00 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FINAL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Mayor Allers, Vice Mayor Atterholt, Council Member King, Council Member Veach and Council Member Woodson.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Laguna Channel Dredge Project

Laguna Channel Dredge Project

Interim Town Manager Wilkins stated that he needed direction on whether to move forward. Approximately \$150,000.00 of the \$300,000.00 was received and those funds were returned.

Vice Mayor Atterholt encouraged the Laguna Shores neighborhood association for their input. He noted that the fees were taken out of utility bills but doing it through the property tax bill would spread the cost over several years. He encouraged the town manager to meet with the association.

Mayor Allers questioned whether the town could afford an island-wide survey since Ian did so much damage. Interim Town Manager Wilkins replied that the 2005 survey had to be updated to start. Geotechnical data for the Lagoon channel will cost \$6,500.00. There are approximately an additional 30 canals. Mayor Allers questioned whether FEMA would reimburse the town for the project.

Interim Town Manager Wilkins replied that Tidal Basin would address his question.

Town Attorney Herin, Jr. explained that a special assessment would spread out the payments for 20 years and appear on property taxes.

Council Member Veach questioned setting a precedent for dredging every canal and noted that the town's share would be \$9 million without additional funding. He mentioned Resilient Lee and wondered whether additional funding was available since the town was dealing with water quality issues in the canals.

Council Member Woodson commented that every canal needed attention and agreed with getting Resilient Lee involved. She supported dredging all the canals if the town could do it cost-effectively.

Council Member King agreed that all canals had to be done.

Mr. Schoonover stated that Bruce Butcher and Mike Poff spearheaded the campaign before Ian but he would pass the information to them.

Town Attorney Herin, Jr. noted that the special assessment stayed with the property. Generally, all benefited properties were assessed and would have to pay a proportionate share based upon whatever the methodology and total cost was. Private canals would be charged separately and not shared by everyone else. If they decided to opt out, it would not affect the rest of the dredging.

Town Manager Hyatt will speak with consultants to determine an estimate of the cost to assess all canals.

B. Presentation: Tidal Basin

Hurricane Ian Recovery Update

Anne Compson from Tidal Basin utilized PowerPoint for her presentation. She reviewed the information distributed to members and stated she would provide a monthly report addressing the prior month moving forward. Spreadsheets will be maintained to address specific funding sources, FEMA projects, hazard mitigation projects, state appropriations, unfunded or underfunded projects and a flow chart of how things move through FEMA. She explained Tidal Basin's responsibilities to the town and indicated they were being paid by the town, but the costs would be reimbursed. She stated that they were becoming involved with Resilient Lee and keeping track of where things were going. Tidal Basin will make sure the town maximizes all opportunities.

Vice Mayor Atterholt questioned whether Tidal Base wrote grants. Ms. Compson replied affirmatively and added that they had been writing grants and continued to search for opportunities. She added that the canals were considered a priority project.

The presentation started with a summary of the funding. Slides include: FEMA, HMGP, CDBG-DR and Alternate Funding; FEMA Public Assistance; Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Sec. 404; Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR); Examples of projects that can be funded with PA, HMGP and CDBG-DR; and Alternate/Additional Assistance. Eliza Alyza Supriana, from Tidal Basin was responsible for securing the \$10 million grant for the stormwater. She explained that there were several significant grants available and she was constantly searching for funding sources for the town. She indicated that bills coming out of the legislature would identify different opportunities.

She reviewed the report of Tidal Basin's accomplishments for the prior month. She referred to the obligation graph on the right-hand side of the folder and explained the process. She will provide the information to the Communications Coordinator to post on the town's website. Ms. Supriana noted she was waiting to hear back from FEMA inspectors regarding the 50% ruling for Town Hall next week. She stated she had a couple of projects ready to be submitted to FEMA or for reimbursement from the state. She reviewed the state legislative appropriations submitted in February for a total of \$52.6 million. She indicated that some grants were not tied to one specific component in order to be strategic with the funds. Eliza offered to provide grant information for 501(c)(3) organizations.

Ms. Supriana confirmed that Tidal Basin was looking for FEMA to replace the structure at Newton Park. Vice Mayor Atterholt questioned whether the town could purchase land for a park on the gulf through one of the grant opportunities. Ms. Supriana replied that she would look into it. Interim Town Manager Wilkins noted there were multiple funding opportunities for land acquisition.

C. Presentation: FEMA

FEMA Community Assistance Recovery Support Function (CARSF)

Emily Galloway from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) explained IRC (Interagency Recovery Coordination) and her role in community assistance. She utilized PowerPoint for her presentation. Slides included: Our Mission; What is an Interagency Recovery Coordination?; Functional Lines of Effort; Recovery Support Functions (RSFs); Community Assistance RSF Mission Statement; Potential Community Assistance Services; Proposed Fort Myers Beach Scope of Work and Lines of Effort and Other Potential RSF Projects.

Mayor Allers questioned the status of inspectors and the Town Hall. Ms. Galloway did not have the information.

Council Member Veach questioned how Ms. Galloway would deal with dredging the canals. Ms. Galloway replied that she would start with CDBG-DR and other opportunities were available.

Council Member Woodson noted that the town wanted a global plan to move forward. Interim Town Manager Wilkins indicated that he drafted a scope of work and gave it to Town Manager Hyatt. Ms. Galloway noted her draft contained tentative timelines for the project planning phase and the recovery plan would follow.

Rick Dubrow of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) stated he worked on redevelopment projects at Mexico Beach. He noted they had identified approximately 80 different funding sources for Mexico City and, last he heard, they had acquired \$250,000.00 million so far. Mr. Dubrow stated that he would like to work with the community and Lee County to identify priorities for the town. He referred to a website (www.r2p2.skeo.com) that displayed six projects from other cities. He noted that he could look at regional trail connectivity regarding acquiring property or utilizing easements for bike lanes and he mentioned using solar for bike lines.

Tonia Pence, Federal Disaster Recovery Officer, stated that she would contact the Joint Field Office concerning the Town Hall. Mayor Allers noted that the inspector delay was holding up progress for the town and the community.

Ms. Pence indicated that recovery was locally led, state-managed and federally supported. She supported the town's progressive ideas and suggested that they let the resources guide them to design a roadmap with projects to anchor the map. She looked forward to working with Resilient Lee and Tidal Basin. She commented that the state was training additional disaster case management personnel to assist the town.

D. Resilient Lee projects

Council Member Veach indicated this was an opportunity to go for expensive projects. The program is administered by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and the chair supports workforce housing. He identified lots available for workforce housing and discussed purchasing church lots for workforce housing and the proceeds for the church could go to rebuilding the church with the block grant. He suggested working on a master plan with the county for the Times Square area and potentially San Carlos Island. He felt that burying the power lines on Estero Blvd. was a Lee County project. He read a short list of projects, including streetlights, linking the canals to stormwater concerns, revisiting the portion on Estero Blvd. without a bike lane, general transportation projects, including the North bridge, building a hardened command center in Bay Oaks or Town Hall and hardening the cell phone towers.

Council Member Woodson commented that repairing the pool would be an excellent short-term project. She brought up off-island parking and shuttles. She felt more options were available for lighting and suggested looking at those options before making the final decision.

Vice Mayor Atterholt liked all the ideas and questioned whether the projects fell under Resilient Lee.

Council Member King felt that the list was a great starting point.

Council Member Veach clarified that the Resilient Lee meeting was primarily intended as outreach to the residents regarding how they were affected by the hurricane. Part of his strategy was to put everything out there. He felt his role in the meeting was to listen and answer questions.

Mayor Allers stated that one of his top priorities was to harden communication systems and another was to provide a space like the new Bay Oaks Community Center for multiple purposes.

Council Member Woodson described the Resilient Lee meeting in Sanibel on Monday and stated it was critical for the community to attend tonight to provide input.

IV. AGENDA MANAGEMENT

May 2023

Add forensic audit to the next M&P.

Add a schedule of charrettes to the next M&P.

Add a regular agenda item to talk about their list of projects.

Add new software discussion for departments to a future M&P.

Add discussion about hardening communications and new technology to a future M&P.

Vice Mayor Atterholt requested that general contractors be allowed to put up signs to identify commercial properties for their workers and others for the next six months. Council Member King agreed. Mayor Allers expressed concern regarding the size of signs and enforcement. Vice Mayor Atterholt replied that the general contractors would be responsible for the signs. Mayor Allers suggested allowing signs for general contractors at residential properties, but he felt they were opening pandora's box. He stated that they had to ensure their messaging was very clear before implementing any changes. Vice Mayor Atterholt supported allowing signs for general contractors at residential properties. Mayor Allers suggested that Vice Mayor Atterholt work with staff regarding details.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member King moved to adjourn; second by Mayor Allers.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Minutes adopted as amended, May 15, 2023; Motion by Council Member King and seconded by Council Member Woodson. Passed 5-0.



Amy Baker, Town Clerk