



Fort Myers Beach Town Council Joint Session with Advisory Committee Chairs

**Council Chambers
2525 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2021

9:00 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FINAL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Mayor Murphy, Vice Mayor Hosafros, Council Member Allers, Council Member Atterholt and Council Member Veatch.

Advisory Committee Chairs present: Public Safety Committee (PSC) Chair John Goggin, Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF) Chair Steve Johnson, Cultural and Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board (CELCAB) Chair Barbara Hill, Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board (CELCAB) Chair Betty Simpson, Anchorage Advisory Committee (AAC) Chair Katherine Light and Audit Committee Vice Chair Ed Lombard.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Updates from Advisory Committees

Public Safety Committee

John Goggin, Chair of the PSC, submitted documents concerning areas they were working on and a detailed description of a process they were following for discovery with the Fire Department and Lee County Sheriff's Department. He indicated they were reviewing monthly reports from both entities and were looking for domestic violence and pedestrian/vehicle accidents. He noted they were modifying a survey to obtain details of concerns regarding the homeless population. Once the PSC determined which issue to work on, they would submit a recommendation on estimated cost. He discussed educational opportunities and noted the PSC would include the progress of recommendations in their monthly report.

Chair Goggin brought up the foot of the bridge design and commented that the PSC recommended no crosswalks. He questioned whether Council

supported the PSC meeting with Lee County DOT to review the crosswalks. He reported that a new shelter was constructed on Bay St. and the PSC obtained a quote for a Code Blue communication system. He explained how the system worked. He suggested that the 2019 Interlocal agreement with the County to add markings to the sidewalks for bicycles and pedestrians be completed. He requested that the PSC be involved with reviewing lighting recommendations along with other committees.

Chair Goggin reported that bicycles were required to have audible devices and lights, but many did not. He suggested that the Town consider purchasing lights and bells to help improve safety. He noted it would cost the Town approximately \$1,000.00 for 100 light.

Vice Mayor Hosafros addressed the small area of shade in the shelter. Chair Goggin agreed and noted it was a prototype shelter. He added that they planned to survey tram riders for feedback.

Council Member Veach noted that some committees were working on similar issues and he suggested that the Chairs communicate with each other.

Council Member Atterholt supported the PSC providing data concerning criminal activity and encouraged them to review the Community Policing Proposal. Chair Goggin responded that many calls concerning the Lani Kai were eliminated due to a lack of cause. He noted they would look into whether people should walk bicycles in congested areas.

Council Member Allers stated that he would mention the 2019 sidewalk Interlocal to the Commissioner. Chair Goggin will forward the information to Council Members.

Mayor Murphy commented that future crosswalks should be fully automated. He described walking on sidewalks with his dogs and bicycles coming from behind. He supported bells and lights on bicycles and mentioned the need to maintain tree branches that obscured school speed limit signs.

Town Manager Hernstadt spoke but was inaudible.

Marine Resources Task Force

Steve Johnson, Chair of MRTF, noted that Council approved moving forward with the lighting consultant. The sale of yellow-bellied slider turtles was being handled between the store owners and Ranger Rob. MRTF would like the Town to help with removing invasive vegetation with property owners. A member was working with the Masters Gardeners Organization to identify exotic and invasive plants on the Island. He described the dune managed beach zone and noted the purpose was to grow a frontal dune along the beach. He noted that the property owner had the ability to manage the dune in the zone by following a list of criteria. Chair Johnson stated that Project Manager Chadd Chustz was working on an ordinance. He described education outreach concerning sunscreen use, rubble from the old bridge for an artificial reef, building a fishing pier, and creating a public beach access at Big Carlos Pass. He reported they would discuss a model ordinance concerning dark skies. He indicated that MRTF Member Fossum would discuss derelict vessels with the Anchorage Advisory Committee Chair

(AAC). He noted that pump-outs were also discussed. He mentioned monitoring public marinas for bacteria, reviewing the sea turtle ordinance and filling holes on the beach. MRTF requested that Council direct the Town Manager to use resources to fill holes.

Mayor Murphy reviewed the history of the new Big Carlos Pass bridge. He stated that Bonita Springs questioned whether Council would join them in opposing the bridge. Mayor Murphy reported that they would discuss the issue later.

Town Manager Hernstadt reported that staff currently addressed holes on the beach with property owners and addressed pump-outs.

Cultural and Environmental Center Advisory Board

Barbara Hill, Chair of CELCAB, reported that Director Giesen and staff did an outstanding job managing operations during the pandemic. She described new and ongoing programs and noted that improvements to the underground exhibit were moving forward. She encouraged everyone to purchase the new Mound House book and noted that all proceeds benefitted the Mound House. Beach walks were held twice a week at Newton Park and were very popular. The Seven Seas cottage at Newton Park was in the process of being repainted and repaired. CELCAB recommended that the Town trim the landscape. She noted that programming was on hold due to the pandemic.

Chair Hill stated that they were scheduled to review their Strategic Plan next week and she commended the Town for doing a great job with operations, budgeting, staff and programs.

Council Member Veach suggested interaction with MRTF Members regarding environmental education. Chair Hill commented that all committee members were welcome to attend their meetings and speak at public comment. She acknowledged safety issues at Newton Park and would like to see better security. Council Member Allers questioned adding additional cameras. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that he would follow up with Director Giesen.

Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board

Betty Simpson, Chair of BORCAB, reported that it looked like they would be moving forward with planned phases and she personally thanked Council for listening to them. She stated it was her privilege to serve and participate in group meetings.

Council Member Veach appreciated Chair Simpson's words and was excited about the BORCAB plan. Mayor Murphy agreed.

Anchorage Advisory Committee

Katherine Light, Chair of the AAC, brought up the Upland Service Provider, expanding the Mooring Field, Strategic Plan and a Mooring Field staff report. She touched on the history of the Upland Service Provider and the decision to bring it in house. She noted that waterfront property was limited and the proposed purchase two units at Harbor House. The AAC hoped that Council would make a formal proposal to purchase the units and negotiate terms.

She indicated that there was no room to expand at Matanzas Pass. She described the steps to expand the Mooring Field and noted Director O'Riley was pursuing grant opportunities. Chair Light stated that their Strategic Plan activities were on hold due to the pandemic. She described the pump-out process, removing derelict vessels, delinquent accounts, field and dock maintenance and water quality issues. She agreed to work with MRTF on water quality and derelict boats. She stated that expanding the Mooring Field would give them more control over the area.

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that they would have jurisdiction over the area with an expansion and the quality of the Mooring Field would be elevated. Chair Light discussed the convenient location of Harbor House for the expanded field.

Audit Committee

Ed Lombard, Vice Chair of the Audit Committee, reported that the Audit Committee was now comprised of seven members. He stated that they recently approved a new wire transfer policy for electronic funds transfers due to the 2019 audit. He noted the new policy was more centralized with good controls. He commented that they recommended that Council rescind the Investment Policy. He described problems surrounding the policy and noted that they followed the Florida Statutes for their investment policy. He described the new Financial Controls and Reporting Policy recently adopted. He noted it included a requirement for a cash flow analysis, which would allow the Finance Director to analyze recommended investments. Vice Chair Lombard was grateful for the new Finance Director and he commended the former Finance Director. The audit was ongoing and the final report was expected in late March. He described the difference between budgeting and auditing. He indicated that the Audit Committee might be interested in participating in budgeting, but they would have to be careful not to wade into gray areas.

Town Manager Hernstadt welcomed feedback concerning the budget from all committees, but he was hesitant to add more steps to the budget process.

Mayor Murphy noted that the Local Planning Agency Chair (LPA) could not attend and the Community Resource Advisory Board (CRAB) did not enough members presently.

Town Manager Hernstadt thanked the Chairs for acknowledging staff and Council liaisons. He noted that Bayside Park was not mentioned, and he felt it should have some community leaders. Council Member Veach replied that CRAB was working on it before losing members.

Mayor Murphy thanked everyone for participating.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Minutes adopted with changes, February 1, 2021; Motion by Vice Mayor Hosafros and seconded by Council Member Veatch. Passed 5-0.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and the last name "Baker" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Baker, Town Clerk