



Fort Myers Beach Management & Planning Session

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

Minutes

Thursday, February 4, 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 Veach.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Times Square and Bayside Park update

Presentation by DRMP Inc. of the design status for Times Square and Bayside Park.

Town Manager Hernstadt noted that all emails received were forwarded to DRMP for consideration.

Paul Benvie, Project Manager with DRMP, utilized slides for his presentation. He displayed versions of the sail in Times Square and pergolas. He described how algorithms were used to control the shades in the pergolas.

White LED uplights were shown in an evening photo with turtle-friendly lights available during turtle season. He stated the material used for the ground surface was the same product used on Old San Carlos. Mr. Benvie described the drainage system.

Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley stated that the mobile FMB selfie sign could be stored onsite or at Town Hall. Mr. Benvie indicated they were able to start construction this summer and he mentioned that they were coordinating with the other island construction projects. Town Manager Hernstadt noted that they would request a price hold for a year while the Town investigated grant opportunities. He commented that every project had tentative schedules. He thought the signal at Old San Carlos would be done before other projects, but they had to avoid the window when TPI brought in steel

and concrete.

Mayor Murphy agreed with the timeline and noted that the merchant's request to delay the project dovetailed with the Town's plans. Consensus was reached to move forward.

Mr. Benvie described the modified Bayside Park design. The lack of shade trees was discussed. Mr. Benvie responded that trees could be added and explained that they provided shade sails in lieu of trees. Discussion was held regarding the placement of a veteran tribute. Town Manager Hernstadt suggested they add no less than four shade trees. Mr. Benvie replied that they would add gumbo limbo trees.

Mr. Benvie discussed the stage design and noted it was a smaller version of the stage in Times Square. He stated the material in front of the stage would be artificial turf. He explained how colored lights in the shade sails worked. Town Manager Hernstadt described the area along the shoreline.

Mr. Benvie stated they would be ready to start construction this summer. He will add shade trees to the design and circulate the plan for approval. He thought the project would take about four months to complete. Town Manager Hernstadt indicated they could research the pros and cons of artificial turf versus grass.

B. Review of Laguna Shores Channel Dredge STA #002

Review of Laguna Shores Channel Dredge STA #002

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that vessels were unable to navigate the channel. He reviewed the background of the project as laid out in the blue sheet. Council Member Veach expressed concern regarding the cost. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that it was an engineer's estimate and it would have to be bid it out for the real cost. Former Council Member Bruce Butcher provided a brief history of dredging in Laguna Shores. In 2005 and 2008, residents agreed to pay 60% and the Town 40%. He noted the lagoon was a natural waterway and used by many entities. He read letters from Mayor Kiker and Bill Nelson in 2009 regarding a second dredging because the new channel was compromised after three to four months. The original dredging cost each homeowner \$1,800. In 2012, a second dredging was done in another location and was paid for by the West Coast Inland Navigational District (WCIND). Now it was an established channel with channel markers. He wondered whether they would pay for the dredging again. The Town did not renew a 2016 maintenance agreement with an engineer to survey the channel every two years. Mr. Butcher stated that dredging the canal was a public benefit. He questioned how much it would cost to fix the problem and have continued maintenance. He agreed the estimate was high and suggested moving forward with the permit. Vice Mayor Hosafros favored another 60-40 agreement if they could not get funding as long as they obtained authorization to participate from the homeowner's association. Town Manager Hernstadt questioned whether they wanted to spend \$10,000.00 to move forward. He described details of the financing packet and contract award.

Council Member Atterholt supported a cost-sharing arrangement with the neighborhood and questioned whether the sand could be used for beach renourishment on the south end of the Island. Town Manager Hernstadt thought the sand would not be beach quality and would probably be used for fill elsewhere. Consensus was reached to move forward. Town Manager Hernstadt stated he would add permitting, plans and specifications to their next agenda.

C. Beach Renourishment Project

Review Beach Renourishment Project Scope

Environmental Project Manager Chadd Chustz reviewed the current scope as noted in the packet. Permitting the entire six miles would give the Town the latitude to more readily put sand in those areas. State funding was not a guarantee but increasing the project's scope gave the Town higher ranking points for funding. They received \$300,000.00 from TDC for permitting and design for the current scope. Project Manager Chustz stated they would hear from the state in March 2021 regarding a 50% cost-sharing bid.

Consensus was reached to move forward.

D. Annual Special Event Pass

Annual On-site Special Event Permit for Non-profits properties in excess of 1.2+ acres (\$1,200.00/year)

Town Manager Hernstadt discussed streamlining the special events with an annual permit. Council Member Atterholt questioned whether they could reduce the cost since they were non-profit organizations and benefited the community. Town Manager Hernstadt suggested \$1200.00 for the first event and subsequently charging \$600.00. He stated that the Town did not make money on the events. Consensus was reached to move forward.

IV. AGENDA MANAGEMENT

A. Agenda Management

No action.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Veach moved to adjourn; second by Vice Mayor Hosafros. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes adopted, February 16, 2021; Motion by Council Member Allers and seconded by Vice Mayor Hosafros. Passed 5-0.



Amy Baker, Town Clerk