



Fort Myers Beach Management & Planning Session

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

Minutes

Thursday, December 3, 2020

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 Clock

A discussion of a clock in Times Square as requested by Town Council. Town Manager Hernstadt reviewed the background of the clock issue. He described a range of options from keeping the clock even if it eventually quits working to scrapping it. The clock is currently working, but it was not included

in Times Square's new design plan, and the parts are becoming more difficult

to find to repair the clock. Another alternative was to replace the clock with a new free-standing clock or continue with the clock in the concept plan. If the new clock did not work out, they could put the old clock back.

Mayor Murphy questioned the financial estimates for each option. He noted they had received emails regarding nostalgia around the clock. He thought they might be able to find a place for it in the new plan.

Council Member Atterholt discussed major changes on the Island and supported keeping the existing clock.

Council Member Veach agreed. He noted everyone wanted a clock of some kind and if they replaced it, he suggested installing a different type of clock. Vice Mayor Hosafros agreed with Council Member Veach.

Council Member Allers supported keeping the old clock. He questioned whether keeping it in the same spot was viable. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that it could be moved five feet in any direction. He stated that since

the clock was 20 years old, it could be replaced with an updated version of the same model. The lower estimate to replace the casement was \$50,000.00. The new sail with the clock was approximately \$100,000.00. Council Member Allers commented that they could keep the old clock and add a new one.

Mayor Murphy agreed with having two clocks.

Council Member Veach agreed with keeping the old clock, but he liked the variable message board because it was pertinent. He suggested that the logo be implemented in the monument and used as a selfie point. He mentioned integrating the clock in the stage.

Mayor Murphy summarized that the consensus was to keep the old clock and add a new message-board type clock.

B. FMB Arches

A discussion of the Arches as requested by Town Council.

Town Manager Hernstadt reviewed the topic. Lee County and the group trying to save the arches did not reach an agreement regarding locations or designs. There were no plans to include the arches in any of the Town's capital improvement plans.

Council Member Atterholt expressed his support for the Save the Arches group. He suggested installing one arch on the Bay Oaks campus walking trail. He noted that BORCAB (Bay Oaks Recreation Campus Advisory Board) disagreed. He suggested installing an arch at the southern beach access to Lynn Hall Park. He felt they should find a way to memorialize the arches in some capacity.

Council Member Allers agreed that there might be a place for them, but he did not see a good landing spot.

Council Member Veach noted that every location suggested so far did not work for some entity. He stated they did not have much material left from the original arches. He indicated many of the available locations were under County control.

Vice Mayor Hosafros noted that the County was willing to install them at Crescent Beach Park, but a previous Council voted it down. She supported putting them at Crescent Beach Park.

Mayor Murphy stated the County was not interested in pursuing the matter, but they might go along if Council presented a plan.

Vice Mayor Hosafros supported installing them at Lynn Hall Park.

Council Member Atterholt questioned whether the Town Manager would meet with the Save the Arches group and investigate the location. Vice Mayor Hosafros disagreed with meeting with the members of the group since the leader was not even at the meeting. She indicated that they had good intentions, but they were not a structured group. Council Member Atterholt suggested that members of the group attend the next Council meeting to provide input.

Town Manager Hernstadt remarked that the County did not support installing the arches on the Estero Blvd. side of Crescent Beach Park. Mayor Murphy

felt that the Lynn Hall Park location might work since it would not be visible from Estero Blvd.

Council Member Veach stated that the loss of open views to the Gulf was a major complaint about anything being built. Council Member Atterholt stated that the location suggested at the beach access would not obstruct the view. Consensus was reached to try to find a location for remnants of the arches. Town Manager Hernstadt stated that the County may have already reviewed the location.

Council Member Veach recalled that the group to save the arches stated they would fund the operation and Council Member Atterholt thought the County offered to provide some funding too.

C. Bay Oaks' redevelopment progress.

Matters regarding the redevelopment of Bay Oaks.

Town Manager Hernstadt reported that BORCAB (Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board) did not want the arches, they did not care for the latest concept plan and they would like a plan with all phases as they originally recommended. He indicated that their original project was closer to \$20 million, but the Town was working with a \$5.5 million budget. Council Member Allers reviewed how redeveloping Bay Oaks started.

BORCAB thought big, but the consultant had to choose priorities to fit within the smaller budget. He commented that the design was better than what was there, but it was not what BORCAB envisioned. He was not sure how to bridge the gap without spending a lot more money. BORCAB would like to be involved with the design going forward.

Vice Mayor Hosafros noted that the AAC (Anchorage Advisory Committee) had their plans dashed, so they researched another path towards their goals. Council Member Atterholt brought up the fact that BORCAB was not involved with discussions to pare down their design. He suggested a joint session between BORCAB, Town Council, the Town Manager and the design firm to implement some of BORCAB's ideas within the budget constraints. He used the amphitheater as an example of something they should be able to fix. He added that they had at least an additional \$1 million to work with, and revenue would be generated with better facilities. He pointed out that since the building at Bayside was no longer an option, they could use those funds at Bay Oaks. Vice Mayor Hosafros did not think it was fair to take funds from the AAC plans. Council Member Atterholt was not aware that the funds were earmarked for the AAC.

Council Member Allers indicated that BORCAB did not know there were two phases to the project. They were open to a phased project, but they were concerned that there were no plans for the second phase. They questioned whether a second phase would ever happen or if they would be stuck with the latest design.

Council Member Veach commented that the facilities were not utilized enough and he thought the proposal achieved the needs within the budget. He did not support raising the tax rate without a referendum.

Mayor Murphy commended BORCAB for their plan. He agreed that the public should provide feedback and get involved with the project.

Vice Mayor Hosafros indicated that two phases were never agreed to and she felt the current design was good. She felt that a referendum was necessary if they wanted to add a phase two.

Town Manager Hernstadt reminded everyone how the project started. He stated that the conflict was where to locate the stand-alone amphitheater. He questioned putting it back by the pool.

Council Member Allers noted that BORCAB was concerned that the feeling of a stand-alone amphitheater would be lost by combining it with the building.

He discussed fundraising efforts. He agreed with a joint meeting and polling the public to determine what they wanted.

Council Member Veach supported creating more functional uses of the property and he felt the current configuration was more versatile. Vice Mayor Hosafros agreed that it made sense to attach the amphitheater to the building for costume changes and storage, the ability to store equipment and catering options.

Council Member Atterholt stated that they had to prioritize what was important and he supported a joint meeting. Council Member Allers suggested that staff present a design with input from BORCAB and Council before scheduling meetings.

Council Member Allers noted that he needed to see what a stand-alone amphitheater would look like before comparing it to the present location.

Council Member Veach preferred the current location within the building.

Council Member Atterholt did not think they had enough information to make a decision. He supported meetings with appropriate entities to reach a compromise. Mayor Murphy felt that integration was fine but he agreed to take another look at it. Town Manager Hernstadt stated that they would produce more drawings of the amphitheater and schedule meetings.

IV. AGENDA MANAGEMENT

A. Agenda Management

Add data presentation by Environmental Project^{*(amended at 01.11.2021 meeting)} Manager Chustz to the December 7, 2020 agenda. Add joint meeting with BORCAB before the first regular Council meeting on January 11, 2021.

Add amphitheater vote to the Council meeting on January 19, 2021.

Add veteran's tribute to an agenda.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Murphy adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes adopted with changes, January 11, 2021; Motion by Vice Mayor Hosafros and seconded by Council Member Allers. Passed 5-0.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Amy Baker, Town Clerk