MINUTES

FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931

MANAGEMENT & PLANNING
WORKSESSION

Tuesday February 22, 2011
9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Present with Mayor Kiker was Vice Mayor Raymond, Council members List, Mandel and Babcock along with Town Manager Terry Stewart and Town Clerk Michelle Mayher.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Works Director Cathie Lewis and Cultural Resources Director Theresa Schober joined the meeting.

III. QUARTERLY OPERATIONAL REPORT

A. PARKS AND RECREATION

Town Manager Stewart along with Public Works Director Lewis presented a review of the operational performance of the Bay Oaks facility and Town of Ft Myers Beach Community Pool, addressing the pool as a separate entity and providing comparisons of services and operating costs from last year to this year.

Ms. Lewis stated the Ad Hoc Committee's 5 year report was the guide post for moving forward at Bay Oaks. Printed material was supplied to Council showing the various programs offered at Bay Oaks.

Discussion continued regarding donations, possible grants, other communities

after school programs, and transportation issues, regarding vans and/or buses, fee schedules, as well as usage of the facilities for island residents versus off island residents.

Mayor Kiker asked questions regarding:

- Overnight trips, insurance, safety
- $2 per person for Little League
- Kayaking – noting duplication with kayaking at Mound House
- Vending Machines
- Tent purchase and possible usage charge for events on Bay Oaks Property
- Annual Membership for all the town's parks

Fee schedules and the cost of running the parks were noted as concerns as well as seeking out organizations to rent the facility for monthly meetings, making the rental process more efficient.

Council Member List brought up the issue that had also been discussed in the joint Council/BORCAB meeting, which was what did they really want the facility to be.

Town Manager Stewart reminded Council that limited resources and limited facilities meant you could not be all things to all people and trying to do everything left you with doing nothing well. Indicating that if some programs were to be cut, Council would need to be prepared to hear from the public.

Cathie Lewis and Nicole Olsen reviewed the present memberships, along with the unexpected usage of the gym to play basketball during spring break; tracking of membership expiration, software currently owned by the town compared to more extensive software and the cost of same.

Possibilities discussed also included renter's membership to the facility through property management companies, coast guard memberships, and working toward an ad campaign. Vice Mayor Raymond also voiced his preference with an annual membership starting January 1st of each year.

Councilmember Babcock reminded Council and staff that there was still an open issue with common land with the school, indicating that at some point that issue needed to be dealt with.

Mayor Kiker wanted a better understanding of how and where the donated funds to Bay Oaks were handled as well as all funds allotted to Bay Oaks. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to put the issue of a process for donations on agenda management.

Ms. Lewis continued with her slide presentation noting volunteers, programs,

and needs for the facilities.

Council Recessed @ 10:55 AM ***Council Reconvened @11:15 AM***

B. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Theresa Schober indicated she utilized the Bay Oaks format for the Cultural Resource facilities. Referencing the Florida Conservation Trust Ms. Schober listed some of the requirements for the facilities.

MOUND HOUSE

- Access to Calusa Blueway
- Wildlife Observation
- Outdoor Passive Recreation such as nature pathways
- Museum year round educational programs
- Archeology programming on site and off site

NEWTON PARK

- Museum use
- Active recreation – such as bocce courts
- Nature trails
- Passive wildlife observation
- 24 specified education programs

Ms. Schober reviewed donations as well as the fact that CELCAB was working on fee schedules for Mound House and Newton Park and costs for the present paid employees.

Ms. Schober continued by reviewing the Friends of the Mound House 501-3c and the process for their fund raising, amounts and uses.

Vice Mayor Raymond requested the actual real dollars needed to finish the Mound House. Town Manager Stewart indicated the Council had already tasked staff with obtaining those figures and staff was in the process of doing just that.

Discussion continued with fund raising progressing now for additional lighting for the Mound House, as well as the possibility for a discussion with the church on Connecticut for additional parking, although Town Manager Stewart voiced his concern over lack of sidewalks to the additional parking whether at the church or 216 Connecticut. Golf cart transportation was then discussed with Mr. Stewart responding there would not be enough participation to justify the costs.

Town Manager Stewart noted his thoughts on opening the Mound House for possibly 3 days a week initially to get a feel for attendance. Mayor Kiker voiced his thoughts on the zoning process of 216 Connecticut, feeling they didn't have enough information yet to move forward on the issue.

Councilmember Babcock discussed issues with rezoning 216 Connecticut, the reasons why the LPA voted against it, the need for additional parking, the need for sidewalks on Connecticut, the need for responding to the residents on the street and how Council would respond to all of those issues.

Councilmember List stated she had recently talked with a resident of Connecticut Street who had always been in favor of the Mound House but had indicated the town would be hard pressed to find people in favor of turning 216 Connecticut into a parking lot. Councilmember Mandel asked to look at other communities that dealt with similar issues to see how they were able to move forward.

Conversation continued with all Council having differing opinions, the decisions of whether the Mound House should have more or less attendees, the repercussion for the neighbors, whether the facility would ever pay for itself.

Councilmember Babcock questioned the use of 216 Connecticut at present for parking with Town Manager Stewart indicating it had been used for events.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

_____
Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

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