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2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fla. 33931 / www.fmbgov.com

Town Council to revisit window tinting requirement that protects sea turtles

Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL – At the May 2 Town Council meeting, after much discussion and public input, Town Councilors decided to revisit the tinting requirement of 15 percent on windows in buildings on the beach.

Some tinting is required because lights can cause sea turtle nesting disorientations. Discussion also emphasized the need for increased education and enforcement to ensure compliance by property owners.

In other action at the meeting, Town Councilors discussed establishing a new advisory board to consolidate the functions of the current advisory boards for Bay Oaks Recreational Campus (BORCAB), Mound House (CELCAB) and community resources (CRAB).

A first public hearing was held on these items as Ordinance 22-10 “Restructuring Advisory Committees” that will be scheduled for a second reading and possible adoption at the June 6 Town Council meeting. This ordinance includes renaming the Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF) to include environmental issues.

Council also proclaimed May 21-27 as Safe Boating Week as requested by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and selected Town resident Cindy Johnson as the recipient of the 2022 Mayor John Mulholland Stewardship Award. Cindy will be recognized at the next Town Council meeting in May.

In other action, Town Council:

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The Town of Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast facing the Gulf of Mexico and backed by Estero Bay. Known for white sugar sand and spectacular sunsets and shell finds, the Gulf beach stretches for seven miles. Incorporated since 1995, the Town has a variety of unique parks, recreation, cultural facilities, shops, and restaurants.

- Approved Ordinance 22-06 after a second reading and public hearing for Tuckaway Café to brew beer for consumption on premises;
- Authorized a \$43,900 contract with Page Mechanical Group, LLC, to install a new air conditioning unit at Bay Oaks Recreational Campus;
- Approved with conditions a pool setback variance for the property at 292 Ohio Avenue;
- Approved a maintenance agreement with the Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the dinghy dock within the leased area under the Matanzas Pass Bridge;
- Approved a special event request, including waiving the permit fee, for the Sierra Club to hold a Hands Across the Sand event on May 21, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Times Square and on the beach; this is pending the timely submission of documents to the Community Development Department.

Town Councilor, Town Attorney and Town Manager reports focused on:

- Estero Boulevard lighting
- An upcoming public meeting to discuss revisions to the personal watercraft/parasailing ordinance
- Two hour parking limit on Old San Carlos Boulevard for veterans who are disabled
- Timeline for the Times Square redevelopment project
- Next steps for the newly-purchased parcel of land behind Town Hall
- Pedestrian crosswalk safety at Lennell Road and Estero Boulevard
- Recognition of the Taste of the Beach and FMB International Film Festival events
- Update on a legal matter

Town Council's next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 9 a.m. at Town Hall, 2525 Estero Boulevard. Council meetings are available live and recorded on the Town's YouTube channel and website, www.fmbgov.com > About FMB > Meetings & Agendas.

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