

**MINUTES**  
**FORT MYERS BEACH**  
**Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Committee**  
Town Hall  
6231 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cherney.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Michele Cherney, John Dussliere, Barbara Hill, Rick Loughrey, Anne Neaf, Ed Schoonover and Joy Sullivan.

Town Staff: Community Services Director Jeff Hauge and Recreation Manager Neille Mathes  
Town Council Liaison: Rebecca Link

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2025**

**MOTION:** BORCAB Member Schoonover moved to approve the minutes, seconded by BORCAB Member Sullivan.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.**

**V. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Manager Mathes reviewed his report and provided the following to the committee:

- There was a total of 115 new Memberships from November 1<sup>st</sup> to January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 1,989 check-ins were completed at the facility over that time span.
- The indoor pickleball hours, effective January 6, 2026, were from 8:30 AM to 12:00PM.
- Fitness classes were steady.
- Winter Break Fun Days had an average of 15 kids in attendance.
- The cooking class on February 3<sup>rd</sup> was fully booked.
- The past week there was a kayaking trip to Manatee Park.
- There was a future scheduled bike trip at Shark Valley in Everglades National Park.
- There was a possibility of having more scheduled kayaking trips.
- There was a children's event, a live book reading of How Murray the Moose Saved Christmas.
- The Wellness Health Fair was set for January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The roof leaks were repaired and coating was put on where it was worn.
- The Semi-Pro Basketball team, Southwest Florida Blazers, were holding their tryouts on February 25th and 26th.

- There is a power lifting competition on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Fort Myers Beach, Beach Community Foundation will hold their March Madness pickleball tournament on March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Bunny Bash will be held outdoors on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 11 AM
- The STEM project would start back on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and would continue for five weeks every Thursday at 5 PM.

Community Services Director Jeff Hauge reported that the selection committee recommended to the Town Manager the firm Opulent Outlines LLC for the pool design and engineering project. The anticipated timeline for the project includes approximately nine months for design and up to a year for the construction. Additionally, the pickleball courts were being repositioned to provide more side clearance with measurements showing approximately 39 feet from fence to fence. He commented that if the public should have any issues with a contractor at Bay Oaks to please reach out to Manager Mathes.

Manager Mathes would circle back to the committee regarding the cure time.

Community Services Director Jeff Hauge reported that Bay Oaks will now have sections that are paid parking and approximately 50 parking spaces designated for Bay Oaks only. Clear signage identifying Bay Oaks only parking will be installed. He clarified that residents with annual parking passes may park in any available space.

Responding to committee member questions, Director Hauge, responded that the Town's equipment would move and provide additional parking spaces. Additionally, the pool construction would use the previous pools footprint, but the pool would be completely redone. He noted that because of the bridge loan, Staff couldn't put the general funds into capital and if equipment needed to be repaired there was a rainy day fund available that could be utilized after careful consideration. He would provide the 2017 architectural plan of the park to the committee, though the plan has been changed due to budget constraints and there were many pieces of the plan that have been scrapped.

The committee discussed the need to develop a realistic funding strategy for Bay Oaks, emphasized the importance of phasing the project, prioritizing the most important elements, and complete possible improvements as funding becomes available. The Town is awaiting the results of a strategic plan and community feedback study expected in February or March. The discussion continued over the financial setbacks and budget constraints.

Community Services Director Jeff Hauge emphasized that Staff did their due diligence with the pickleball courts placement and the decision was made based on the restricted placement options and site limitations. He agreed that there should be a vision of Bay Oaks pending items.

## **VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. Concession Stand**

Manager Mathes noted that there was \$9,500 donated for commercial kitchen equipment at the recreation center, however, this is not a priority. An email was sent requesting approval to repurpose those funds to better support large community events.

### **B. Maintenance Budget**

Manager Mathes stated that basketball scoreboard remotes were needed and approximately costs \$900 a piece and he also proposed an inflatable outdoor movie screen to possibly host outdoor movie nights.

### **C. Bay Oaks Weight Room Fob System**

Director Hauge reported that legal approval is still pending, but quotes have been received and funding is available through park improvement funds.

### **D. Special Events**

Director Hauge stated that event fees cannot be waived by staff and must be presented to the Council for approval.

### **E. Community Pool Update**

*(Clerk's Note: This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.)*

### **F. Silver Sneakers Program**

Manager Mathes stated that he reached out to Tivity Health and they informed him that the application is still in progress. He would research on the exact date the application was entered.

Chair Cherney encouraged committee members to contact Tivity Health to inquire about the status.

### **G. Playground at Fort Myers Beach Elementary**

Director Hauge stated they were currently no further updates available.

## **VII. MEMBER ITEMS**

BORCAB Member Sullivan reported that the reallocation request was being processed.

BORCAB Member Neaf inquired about what would happen if the school playground was not reopened.

Director Hauge said that the program would still continue even if the school did not reopen.

Chair Cherney reported that the Friends at Bay Oaks would be back up and running once the Sunbiz filing is finalized. Additionally, she requested that the women's bathroom door behind the baseball field be replaced.

Director Hauge was aware of this need and he was actively collecting the necessary quotes for the replacement.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** – no public comment.

**X. SET NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA AND DATE**– February 18, 2026.

BORCAB Member Sullivan commented that she would not be in the area and could not attend that meeting.

After brief discussion, the committee determined that the following items would be included on the next agenda: concessions, the FOG system, a pool update, Silver Sneakers, the park, a review of the 2017 Bay Oaks plans, and discussion of future Bay Oaks plans.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Cherney called a motion to adjourn the meeting, The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ with/without changes. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_