



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

MINUTES

JOINT TOWN COUNCIL & ANCHORAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WORK SESSION

Tuesday, August 3, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker called to order the August 3, 2011 Meeting of the Town Council at 2:00 p.m. Present along with Mayor Kiker: Council Members Kosinski, List and Mandel; Town Manager Stewart, Public Works Director Lewis, and Town Clerk Mayher; Vice Mayor Raymond was excused.

AAC Members: Present –Chair Light; Members Beasley and Scott; Excused – Butzer, Trantina, Tuyls, and Crown.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. Additional Land-Based Access Facilities by Mooring Field Patrons (additional dinghy dockage)

AAC Chair Light explained the agenda listed seven items the Committee wished to discuss with the Town Council; she gave a little historical background on the purpose of the Committee which was formed in 2003; and described the work done by the Committee such as but not limited to the mooring field. She noted there was a dinghy dock under the Matanzas Pass Bridge that handled about 15-20 boats maximum. She explained how this was good for Times Square people, but there were other places that people would travel to by boat if facilities were available. She requested Council consider another public dinghy dock somewhere else on the island, and suggested a few locations to ponder.

Mayor Kiker questioned the cost for the public dinghy dock under the Matanzas Pass Bridge.

Member Beasley stated he would research that question, but believed most, if not all of it was paid for with grant money.

It was determined that first the Town would need to find a location, next determine permitting requirements, research funding through grants, and determine how to budget the project.

Board Member Beasley reported that the Town may already own a piece of property behind Topps.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential site; public access on the bay side; and a commercial access site.

Public Works Director Lewis noted that CRAB was envisioning the bay and beach accesses and as part of that work Council had authorized for some survey work to be done on the bay side accesses. She explained how they might be able to add Gulf View Road to that work, since a survey would be needed to determine whether or not public right-of-way went down to the water on Gulf View Road.

Discussion was held regarding access to the canal along Bay Oaks; and Town Manager Stewart reported staff would provide information to the Council and Committee concerning the cost of the current dinghy dock under the Matanzas Pass Bridge.

Discussion ensued about a water taxi service; and AAC consensus was that any consideration for a water taxi service would be a commercial issue and not a matter for their Committee.

4. Locating a Site to Pump-Out the Pump-Out Boat

AAC Chair Light explained how the Town's pump-out boat went to the mooring field to pump out the boats; and noted there was an additional expense they were incurring when they had to have a boat pump-out the pump-out boat. She questioned if there was a Town-owned sewer lateral available where the boat could pull up to and discharge directly into the sewer lateral.

Town Manager Stewart noted Lee County owned the sewer system.

Public Works Director Lewis reported the Town owned two waterfront properties where there was sewer service to them (North Pump Station on Lagoon Street and the Mound House), and both were in close proximity to the mooring field. She explained there would be a cost to expand the infrastructure to make it accessible for the boat.

Town Manager Stewart discussed how staff could identify how to make this happen which would include information on permitting, costs, and a comparison of the current cost.

Discussion was held concerning ownership of the laterals under the Matanzas Pass Bridge; Public Works Director Lewis reported they were owned by the State, and that area was particularly shallow.

5. Assistance from Lee County for Pumping-Out Boats in Lee County Waters

AAC Chair Light discussed concerns regarding pump-out boats that anchor around the corner from the mooring field who were located in Lee County waters, and the ability for these boats to purchase a ticket for only \$15 for the Town's pump-out boat to service them so they did not have to move. She questioned the actual cost to the Town; suggested obtaining help from Lee County with the expenses for this service; and reported the County was approached on the topic in the past and appeared to be receptive. She reviewed a resolution prepared by the AAC about the pump-out boat, and expressed the Committee's request for Council's support.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed resolution draft submitted by AAC.

AAC Chair Light explained how the Committee hoped the Town Council would approach the County on this issue.

Town Manager Stewart stated that either he or staff would contact the appropriate County staff concerning this matter.

6. Dedicated Pump-Out Services for Locals or Lee County Boats

Discussion was held concerning the possibility of a scheduled weekly pump-out time at a mooring ball site so the pump-out boat would not have to travel to the boats; however, it was noted there would still be a cost and staff felt it should be recouped even if it was a minimal cost. Discussion continued regarding an awareness program to inform the boaters of the service and that discharge of the boat into the water was illegal; and the availability of grant funding.

7. Upland Services Providers

AAC Chair Light reported the Matanzas Inn was in partnership with the upland services provider who administered the day-to-day operations and described the provider's facilities at the site. She suggested from time-to-time Council may want to consider nurturing the relationship with Matanzas and maintain a good relationship.

Town Manager Stewart suggested that the Town require the upland service provider to make Town-developed customer service surveys available at their site and make customers aware they may also fill out the survey on the Internet.

Discussion ensued regarding previous upland service providers; concerns regarding issues with the radio service by the current provider, and the fact that Matanzas was actually an hotelier and not a true marina; a suggestion to install a base station at Matanzas to improve radio communication; and the cost of a base station and an antenna.

8. “Soon-to-be-derelict Boats”

AAC Chair Light explained the topic was placed on the agenda so the Committee had an opportunity to urge Council to maintain funding of marine patrol, and she discussed the basis for the request as it pertained to derelict boats, security, and pump-out enforcement.

Town Manager Stewart pointed out that the Town Council did not reduce the funding for marine patrol in the budget, and reported the Town submitted a grant application to the TDC to offset costs.

9. Mooring Field Management Style, Techniques, Constraints

AAC Chair Light explained this agenda item was more or less a ‘catch-all’ for all of their concerns; and she discussed maintenance at the mooring fields, costs involved with maintenance. She requested Council maintain the budget for this matter.

AAC Member Beasley reviewed the history of the mooring field and how it had benefited the community.

Discussion ensued regarding derelict boats moored in Lee County waters; and the possibility of expanding the boundary of the Town’s mooring field.

Town Manager Stewart described the process entailed with derelict boats on private property versus public property.

Discussion continued concerning derelict boats, and potential funding for removal of derelict vessels.

Town Manager Stewart stated that he was unaware of a derelict vessel in Town waters at this time. He suggested now that the Committee has brought the matter to Council’s attention the Council may want to consider writing a letter or drafting a resolution to inform the County Commissioners about the importance of this matter.

Consensus of Council was to have staff draft a letter or resolution, whichever was appropriate, for Council’s vote at their next meeting.

AAC Chair Light reported on the success of the Committee’s Fourth Annual Cruisers’ Appreciation Day this past March; noted how the Committee advertised for people to come to Fort Myers Beach; and described the participation by the Matanzas Pass Inn for the event which included but was not limited to advertising.

Public Works Director Lewis noted the Matanzas Pass Inn's website included advertising of the Town's mooring field.

Mayor Kiker requested the Town Manager check the budget to possibly find additional funds for the Committee's advertising efforts.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

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