

1. Requested Motion:

Meeting Date: February 19, 2013

Authorize staff to prepare and submit five funding applications to the Lee County Tourist Development Council for (1) beach and shoreline operations and maintenance; (2) capital improvements to bayside and beach accesses; (3) purchase and installation of a portable restroom, (4) (5) capital improvements for shade structures at the Newton Beach Park and the Mound House, all totaling ~\$876,854.00.

Why the action is necessary:

The Town Council directed staff to seek authorization for all external funding requests.

What the action accomplishes:

It authorizes staff to move forward with the FY 2014 funding requests.

2. Agenda:

- Consent
- Administrative

3. Requirement/Purpose:

- Resolution
- Ordinance
- Other

4. Submitter of Information:

- Council
- Town Staff – Public Works
- Town Attorney

5. Background:

The Town of Fort Myers Beach has traditionally sought support for beach and shoreline maintenance and shoreline-related capital improvement projects from Lee County's Beach & Shoreline grant program funded through tourist tax collections. The Tourist Development Council (TDC) has established February 22, 2013 as the deadline for all FY 2014 funding requests. Once submitted, these funding requests are evaluated by the Coastal Advisory Council and the TDC before making recommendations to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners for inclusion in the budget process.

With this approval, staff will complete final applications for FY 2014. The beach and shoreline maintenance application will be consistent with those submitted in previous years, but will include the proposed enhancements to existing beach and bay accesses maximizing the Town's reimbursement of eligible expenditures from the grant program for the beach, beach accesses, Mound House and Newton properties. This application will again include replacement of signage at beach accesses, continuing with ADA accessibility, modifying one beach access structure, a share of equipment/vehicle purchases, fully eligible equipment/vehicle purchases, landscaping maintenance and improvements, and solid waste and recycling. In addition to the beach access enhancements, an additional ADA restroom is included. Also included is two capital projects: a shade shelter at the Newton Beach Park (\$30,000) and Chickee Huts at the Mound House (\$30,000), which includes a cumulative financial match by the Town (~\$6,100). Attached for review is the budget breakdown for the application and associated project narratives.

6. Alternative Action:

Disapprove and provide Staff with a funding alternative.

7. Management Recommendations:

Approval

8. Recommended Approval:

Town Manager	Town Attorney	Finance Director	Public Works Director	Community Development Director	Parks & Recreation Director	Town Clerk
						

9. Council Action:

- Approved Denied Deferred Other

Narrative

Town of Fort Myers Beach General Operations and Maintenance

I. Project Summary

This project funds the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the Town's beach, beach accesses, the Mound House Shoreline Park, Newton Beach Park and the Old San Carlos Bayside Park. The funds will be apportioned for personnel services, preventative maintenance services, repair and maintenance, and contractual services for upkeep of the facilities. Combining the beach and park requests enhances the Town Staff's ability to assimilate both projects and streamline the reimbursement procedures. The level of service that is maintained through this program provides the visitors to the Town of Fort Myers Beach with an exceptional experience that is expected when visiting for an island vacation.

II. Project Abstract

A. Project Description

This funding provides the Town the ability to maintain the public beach and shoreline areas in a clean, attractive and safe manner and allows for the operations of the same to proceed in an efficient manner to enhance the enjoyment of visitors to Fort Myers Beach. The equivalent of two full time and three part time positions are being funded through this, including the janitorial requirements for the comfort station located at the Palm Street Beach Access. In addition, this application includes one full time position that will be utilized at both the Mound House and Newton Park. Repair and maintenance of the equipment used for beach and shoreline operations is included as well as the costs for trash and recycling removal. It is the Town's intention, with this request, to continue with the improvements to the beach accesses to further enable handicapped accessibility by purchasing and installing mobi-mats for the remaining beach accesses that can accommodate them as well as extending the lengths of the mats at certain accesses. Also included within this category is the modification to one access way to remove the stairway and replace with a ramp to enhance accessibility.

In addition to the on-going maintenance related work, the Town will begin enhancements to it's' beach accesses such as adding landscaping, new signage, additional ADA accessibility and overall access appearance.

The proposed funding for the Mound House and Newton Beach Park consists of the continued proper and complete maintenance for both properties. Significant park enhancements including pathways, interpretive signage and landscaping funded by TDC has been installed at both the Mound House and Newton properties. The inclusion of the new position will provide added assurance that the properties are always in the best condition for the many tourists that visit these

locations daily. The addition of these amendments continues to emphasize the public use and benefit of these waterfront parks and the acceptance of the FY 14 funding request will continue to enable the Town to provide clean, attractive, and safe facilities with restrooms for visitors to enjoy.

Continuing to provide funding for the Old San Carlos Bayside Park will assist the Town with the continuation of maintenance and repair to further enhance and promote the shoreline area of the Town for public use by visitors. This area has recently become considerably more active since the Privateer Lynx has made Fort Myers Beach their winter home.

This application also includes the purchase of vehicles and equipment, including two new beach vehicles with dump beds for maintaining the beach and another similar vehicle for use at the Mound House and Newton Park.

B. Overall Context

For the past several years, TDC has reimbursed the Town of Fort Myers Beach for the operation and maintenance of Fort Myers Beach and beach accesses #11 through #36. The funding for the Mound House, Newton Beach and Old San Carlos Bayside Parks further facilitates the Town's ability to provide for public use of these properties.

C. Relationship to Beach/Shoreline

Public Beach accesses are the customary way to enter the beach/shoreline for the general public. It is important to maintain these areas in a safe, clean and inviting condition where tourists feel comfortable entering and exiting the beach. The Newton Beach Park also provides direct access to the beach with public parking, restroom facilities, picnic tables, Chickee Hut and walkways for a pleasant experience. Environmental tours of the beach are regularly scheduled at the Newton Beach Park that attracts visitors from all over the world. The Mound House is surrounded by water on three sides and includes direct access by boat plus non motorized watercraft to the Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. The Mound House Park is routinely enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year seeking a passive "Back Bay" experience. The Old San Carlos Bayside Park is a gathering location for visitors along the Town's "Bay Walk". From this park visitors enjoy watching the wealth of activities along Matanzas Pass often seeing Dolphin, Manatee, Pelicans and other fishing birds directly adjacent to the park. People also tend to gather here to watch the consistent sights of boats traversing the water way. From this location visitors can easily find water based activities and tours, restaurants and hotels.

D. Impact on Tourism

It has been estimated that 92% of people visiting Lee County visit the beaches. 63% travel to Fort Myers Beach so maintaining clean and safe beaches, beach accesses, and beach and shoreline parks provides a great first impression for visitors. Tourists can leave with a sense of satisfaction and enjoyment by vacationing in a clean and preserved environment.

III. Project Timeline

The funding request is for the complete fiscal year beginning October 1, 2012 and ending September 30, 2013.

Narrative

Town of Fort Myers Beach Capital Project Public Bayside and Gulf Accesses Improvements

I. Project Summary

The project being proposed by the Town of Fort Myers Beach consists of planning, designing and constructing bayside accesses for launching motorized and non-motorized vessels and providing passive park settings for fishing or just enjoying the bay front area. The project will also include enhancements to the existing beach side accesses as well. The preliminary work associated with surveying and title work for the areas being considered has been completed. Moving the projects forward will require the preparation of final construction documents and permitting where necessary. Two bayside and two beach accesses have been identified for these improvements

II. Project Abstract

A. Project Description

Many island visitors look for locations where kayaks, canoes and paddle boards can be launched. Most of the Town's roads terminate at Estero Bay and many tourists visit Fort Myers Beach for the fishing and enjoy fishing from these termini. Some of the bayside areas have adequate public right-of-way that has the potential of providing a passive park area as well as public parking. Comments received from visitors have strongly pointed to improving multi modal facilities on the island including providing bike racks at beach accesses and more handicapped accessibility. The Town has made a commitment with the assistance of the Tourist Development Council to improve handicapped accessibility which will be further improved through this project.

As before stated the initial planning has been completed at two bayside and two beach accesses. Construction plans and permitting for a kayak launch will need to be undertaken to enable the project to move into construction. Construction will commence immediately thereafter.

The Town intends to continue to identify appropriate bayside accesses to continue this upgrade as well as continuing to enhance the beach accesses. It is anticipated that the overall project will take approximately 5 years to complete.

B. Overall Context

Since its incorporation, the Town has made consistent forward movement with enhancements and improvements to the beach and Town Parks. Approval of this request enables the Town to continue its effort and extend its' efforts to Estero Bay as well.

C. Relationship to Beach/Shoreline

The four locations are directly adjacent to the Estero Bay and Gulf of Mexico shoreline, lending itself to easy bay and beach access by visitors.

D. Impact on Tourism

Many people visiting the Town of Fort Myers Beach enjoy and partake in water sports and activities. Estero Bay has a large attraction for boaters and fisherman. The location of these accesses provide easy access points from many hotels, condominiums and other lodging facilities providing visitors the ability to walk or drive a very short distance to enjoy water activities. It is anticipated that through these enhancements more visitors will be attracted to this location year after year.

The twenty-five beach accesses provide direct access to the white sugar sand beach and the gulf waters. Enhancements at these locations will most certainly impact and further confirm the visitors' purpose for coming to the island.

E. Project Timeline

This project is ready to move forward to final design, permitting and construction. It is expected that the four locations identified can be completed and ready for use by the end of one funding cycle.

The remaining accesses both bay and beach will be improved over the next four years.

Narrative

Town of Fort Myers Beach Capital Project ADA Public Comfort Station

I. Project Summary

The project being proposed by the Town of Fort Myers Beach consists of the purchase and installation of a portable, ADA compliant comfort station (restroom).

II. Project Abstract

A. Project Description

In an effort to improve restroom availability for the many beach visitors, the Town has continued to identify appropriate locations for these improvements. Resulting from those activities a viable location has been identified. The location that has been identified should accommodate a larger sized unit which will be beneficial as the location is a heavily used beach access. The location is very close to parking for those visitors that choose to drive to Fort Myers Beach as well as many island hotels.

The restroom will be located in such a manner that it can be removed during an emergency situation and will include amenities such as drinking fountain, foot bath and shower. Electric, sanitary sewer and potable water are located in close proximity to the proposed location.

B. Overall Context

Since its incorporation, the Town has made consistent forward movement with enhancements and improvements to the beach. Approval of this request enables the Town to continue its effort.

C. Relationship to Beach/Shoreline

This improvement is directly adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico shoreline.

D. Impact on Tourism

Many people visiting the Town of Fort Myers Beach enjoy and partake in water sports and activities. The white sugar sand found on Fort Myers Beach is a large attraction for tourists visiting south west Florida. This type of improvement to a beach access will certainly enhance visitors experience and confirm the attraction to this vacation location.

E. Project Timeline

This project should be completed within one funding cycle. As other locations are identified, they will be brought forward for consideration.

Narrative

Town of Fort Myers Beach Capital Project Mound House Shade Structures

I. Project Summary

This project is being brought forward in an effort to provide an enhanced experience to all the visitors utilizing the property. Chickee Hut structures are planned that will provide a natural experience to visitors while providing effective cover from the weather. The huts will be located in areas that will blend into the surroundings and are regularly used during educational programs and tours. These locations are also the customary congregating areas for those visitors that enjoy the various aspects of the property on their own. This type of structure will also provide years of service with minimal maintenance requirements.

II. Project Abstract

A. Project Description

The Mound House Cultural facility consists of the park which is open seven days a week and offers a variety of activities. Many visitors use the property for launching their kayaks, fishing and wildlife observation. In addition the Town, through an active volunteer program currently offers facility tours that include the underground exhibit, an historical presentation of the property as well as the landscaping aspects that represent those historical periods. In addition a sea and wild life education program is periodically held that provides tourists with an opportunity to learn about the unique fauna that is found in Florida bays and Estuaries.

The Chickee Huts will be sized to accommodate small groups or individuals. They are planned to be the traditional type of Chickee and will be constructed in accordance with those standards. It will be necessary to obtain competitive bids for construction and the project will include some minor surveying and construction staking. Local permitting will be required which the Town will administer. Due to the archeological significance of the site it will be necessary to monitor any excavation that occurs during construction. Town staff has been certified to provide this monitoring oversight and if necessary there is also a contract in place with an archeological consultant to assure the proper handling of materials.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed within one funding cycle and the Town will be funding a substantial portion of the project by utilizing staff and existing contracts.

B. Overall Context

From the time that the Town purchased the Mound House property continual restoration and preservation activities have been pursued. The property is currently in its final phases for completion. The TDC has been an instrumental

component with providing assistance to the Town throughout the development. Approval of this request enables the Town to continue its effort to provide an outstanding experience for the many visitors that enjoy the facilities on a daily basis. It is anticipated that the maintenance of these amendments will be minimal in ensuing years.

C. Relationship to Beach/Shoreline

The Mound House property is located adjacent to Estero Bay and is surrounded on three sides by the bay and includes a park setting with meandering pathways, public dock and kayak launch, an underground archeological exhibit with convenient parking, public restrooms, and picnic areas. It is important to provide a safe, clean and inviting condition where tourists know there are additional accommodations while visiting the Fort Myers Beach.

D. Impact on Tourism

This facility, although not yet complete has been drawing tourist from all over the work for quite some time. With the opening of the exhibit and commencement of tours as well as re-building the kayak launch the daily numbers of visitors continues to increase. Moving forward with enhancing the park with the shade structures will help to further their enjoyment during their visit.

III. Project Timeline

It is expected that this project will be completed and ready for enjoyment by December, 2014. The Town is requesting funding for the architectural, engineering, permitting and construction for this funding cycle in the amount of \$30,000.00. It is anticipated to complete this project within on funding cycle.

Narrative

Town of Fort Myers Beach Capital Project Newton Park Shade Structures

I. Project Summary

The proposed project consists of designing and constructing shade structures at the Newton Beach Park. The type of structures that are being contemplated will add visual enhancement and functionality while maintaining the beach park setting. Maintenance of this art work will be minimal as it will be constructed from materials that will lend itself to the beach environment.

II. Project Abstract

A. Project Description

It is the intention of the Town to provide shade structures that will be visually creative enhancing the park atmosphere while maintaining the integrity of the beach park.

Initially the Town will look to the architectural artisan community for input as to design and placement of the proposed structure(s). Once a plan is developed the Town will move into a contract with an artisan/contractor to provide the design of the shade structure for the park property. Permitting for the project will also be included as it will be necessary to receive permits as the property sits forward of the Coastal Construction Control Line. Once permitted, the project will move to construction.

It is anticipated that the project will take approximately two years to complete. The selection of a project design and contractor will take an appreciable amount of time to ensure that the best selection is made. It is estimated that the project will extend beyond one funding cycle to accomplish this.

B. Overall Context

Since its incorporation, the Town has made consistent forward movement with enhancements and improvements to the beach and Town Parks. Approval of this request enables the Town to continue its effort. It is anticipated that the maintenance of these amendments will be minimal in ensuing years.

C. Relationship to Beach/Shoreline

The Newton Beach Park is a beautifully restored property located directly adjacent to the public beach that provides a park setting in which to enjoy the beach with convenient parking, public restrooms, picnic areas, and native beach landscaping. It is important to provide a safe, clean and inviting condition where tourists know there are additional accommodations while visiting the beach.

D. Impact on Tourism

It is estimated 92% of people visiting Lee County visit the beaches. 63% travel to Fort Myers Beach. Providing public restrooms and other park amenities has definitely changed visitors perception of their visit and has the potential to lengthen their stay at the beach. Moving forward with enhancing the park with the shade structures will help to further their enjoyment during their visit.

E. Project Timeline

It is expected that this project will be completed and ready for enjoyment by December, 2015. The Town is requesting funding for the architectural, engineering, permitting and the start of construction for this funding cycle in the amount of \$30,000.00. The FY 15/16 cycle will include the balance estimated at \$20,000.00. As shown on the application it is the intention of the Town to fund approximately ten percent (10%) of the construction costs.