

This meeting will be live-streamed via the Town's website.

Town of Longboat Key Town Commission Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road Longboat Key, FL 34228

www.longboatkey.org

Ken Schneier, Mayor; Debra Williams, Vice Mayor; Gary Coffin, District 1; Penny Gold, District 2; Sarah Karon, District 5; B.J. Bishop, At-Large; and Steve Branham, At-Large

AGENDA SPECIAL WORKSHOP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES April 7, 2025 – 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Pledge of Public Conduct

- We may disagree, but we will be respectful of one another.
- We will direct all comments to issues.
- We will avoid personal attacks.
- Audience members wishing to speak must be recognized by the Chair.
- Speaking without being recognized will be considered as "Out of Order."

3. Public to be Heard

At each meeting, the Town Commission sets aside time for the public to address issues not on the agenda.

4. Goals and Objectives: Civic Organizations, Churches, and Associations

- A. Attendance Confirmed Written Comments Submitted
 - LBK North: Co-Chairs
 - The Federation of Longboat Key Condominiums: President Margie Clarke
 - Longboat Key Green Team: Co-Chair Terri Driver
 - Longboat Key Turtle Watch: President Tim Thurman
 - The Paradise Center: Executive Director Amy Steinhauser
 - Friends of Tennis: President Ron Watts
- B. Not in Attendance Written Comments Submitted
 - None
- C. Attendance Confirmed No Written Comments
 - Emerald Harbor Association: President Susan McVeigh Jones
 - Longboat Key Garden Club: Former President Susan Phillips

5. Other Organizations

6. Town Commission Discussion

7. Adjournment

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Fla. Stat.). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S., persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk's office at 941-316-1999 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired or require an alternative means of communication, utilize Florida Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1 (TTY) or one of the following toll-free numbers: 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), 1-800-955-1339 (ASCII), 1-877-955-8260 (VCO-Direct), or 1-800-955-5334 (STS).

April 7, 2025 Goals and Objectives Special Workshop Meeting Agenda Items 1 - 3

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Pledge of Public Conduct
- 3. Public to be Heard

No Material Provided for These Items

End of Agenda Item

MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard Tipton, Town Manager

THROUGH: Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk

FROM: Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II

REPORT DATE: March 21, 2025

MEETING DATE: April 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Town's Annual Goals and Objectives

Background

On January 15, February 5, and March 4, the Town notified and reminded community organizations of the Town's Annual Goals and Objectives Workshop and provided an opportunity for organizations to submit feedback on the Town's goals for the upcoming fiscal year to the Town Commission. Organizations were requested to submit a copy of their written input by Friday, March 21, 2025.

Eight responses to the Town's request have been received. The responses have been organized into the following categories:

- 1. Organizations that have submitted written comments and will present at the workshop (6)
- 2. Organizations that have submitted written comments but will not present at the workshop (0)
- 3. Organizations that have not submitted written comments but will be in attendance at the workshop (2).

After the Goals and Objectives Workshop, the written and presented feedback will be summarized for Commission consideration during the Annual Strategic Planning Retreat on April 21, 2025, and the upcoming fiscal year 2025-2026 budget process.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

Written Comments submitted by organizations.

LBK North

To: Town Commission

Submitted by: LBK North Board, March 17, 2025

RE: 2025 Goals & Objectives

LBK North is a network of property owners on the north end of Longboat Key comprised of Representatives from 29 homeowner, condominium, and neighborhood associations, representing over 800 residences from District 4 and 5.

LBK North requests the following items be prioritized in the Town Commission Goals and Objectives:

1. Traffic, Transportation and Safety

- a. Explore and push efforts to reduce traffic on the north end of the Key, which may include regulating Coquina parking egress, elimination of 90 degree parking along GMD, traffic cops at key chokepoints, right turn lanes, alternative forms of transport, etc.
- b. Expedite the final design and construction of the Broadway Roundabout.
- c. Explore solutions for traffic / pedestrian safety at **GMD intersection of General Harris**, Lyons Lane, Christ Church, and Gulfside beach access.
- d. Maintain an **active marine police patrol** to continue efforts to address party boat noise and illegal activities on Greer Island and the Jewfish Key sandbar.

2. Infrastructure

- a. Secure funding and continue with the necessary steps to **mitigate street flooding** in areas like Sleepy Lagoon, the Village, and Gulfside.
 - Maintain drains to get the water out and keep it from coming back in.
 - Raise grade levels as needed to allow citizens to safely navigate streets.
- b. Initiate the major program of **canal dredging** including keeping open the channel between the Bay and Greer Cove.
- c. With the completion of the **undergrounding** program of Town Utilities, ensure the new system functions adequately to handle storm surge and salt intrusion.

3. Recreation and Education

a. Secure funding and a location, near term, to support a LBK North Community Center to address the lack of meeting and creative / art space. Develop a longer-range plan to establish a permanent site and building on the north end of the Key to accommodate neighborhood / community

- meetings, art workshops, fitness activities, children's activities and general recreation events that can be enjoyed by all LBK residents.
- b. Work toward a solution to **Ohana Seawall** so that beach walkers continue to have north/south access as they walk our LBK shoreline.
- c. Repair Durante Park so it is fully usable again.

4. Sustainability

- a. Protect our **Mangroves** through vigilant enforcement of laws and regulations.
- b. Adopt policies and tracking mechanisms that support **Green initiatives** (e.g. charging stations, solar, non-gas-powered garden equipment, native plants).
- c. Support all efforts to mitigate **Red Tide** and its impact on LBK (including dead fish removal from beaches and canals).

Member Associations

Member Associations				
Banyan Bay Club	Lands End	Sea Pines		
Bayou Hammock	Longbeach Condos	Sleepy Lagoon		
Beach Castle	Longbeach Village	Spanish Main Yacht Club		
Beachwalk	Longboat Cove	St. Jude / Tarawitt		
Cedars West	Longboat Terrace	The Shore		
Conrad Beach	Northgate	Tides of Longboat		
Emerald Harbor	North Shore	Whitney Beach Assn.		
GMD Homeowners	Reclinata	Whitney Beach Gulfside		
Hideaway Bay	Sandhamn Place	360 North		
Jewfish Key	Sandpipers			

LBK North Mission:

- Identify common interests for property owners on North End
- > Work collaboratively
- > Enhance the quality of life in the community

The Federation of Longboat Key Condominiums

Suggested Goals and Objectives for the Town of Longboat Key for 2025-2026

Our member condominiums represent over 6,000 of the Town's residential units. On behalf of our members, we request your consideration of goals and objectives in the following areas for 2025-2026

Deal with Traffic Issues

Although we recognize that that Town has and shall continue to make all reasonable efforts to engage the State government in the resolution of the congestion experienced by residents of our island, we encourage the Town to continue to provide such measures as traffic signals and police presence, especially during community special events. Also, recognizing the major traffic challenges for commuters who seek to exit the island to the north, we support the efforts to engage discussion with officials from Manatee County to find solutions which provide for a more equitable egress off Longboat Key.

Structural Integrity of Longboat Key's Multistory Residential Buildings

We urge the Town to support the efforts of condominiums in meeting the requirements of the law for structural integrity projects by providing necessary permitting, planning and advice to associations.

Beach Preservation

There is no Longboat Key without our beach. We ask that the Town ramp up its beach replenishment efforts and assist condominium associations in their dune recovery efforts with an emphasis on preservation during hurricanes.

Sea Rise/Climate Change

We support efforts to face the reality of sea rise/climate change and its future effects on our island. We support the Town's continued efforts to identify the areas of our island that are potentially the most impacted and recommend continued planning to deal with the realities of this issue.

Red Tide

We support the Town Commission in taking a leadership role to create a unified statewide approach toward funding a real cleanup of our waterways, continuing to enforce the laws and encourage solutions to the damaging economic and health issues created by this environmental disaster.

Canal/Waterway Management

Given the importance of navigable canals and harbors, we support the Town's plan to facilitate cleaning and/or dredging maintenance.

Landscaping

Since the two hurricanes have devastated the manicured look of Longboat Key, we ask that the Town provide information, encouragement and assistance in replacing the lost and damaged vegetation.

Thank you.

Margie Clarke, President

The Federation of Longboat Key Condominiums

(917) 692-2948

Goals and Objectives 2025

From: LBK Citizens Green Team
Terri Driver, Co-Chair
Rusty Chinnis, Co-Chair
5285 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Unit 102
Longboat Key, FL 34228

To: Town of Longboat Key Commissioners 501 Bay Isles Road Longboat Key, FL 34228

Thank you to the Town of Longboat Key for continued interest in Green initiatives and the many accomplishments over the last few years. And thank you for proactive action on the various items within the Town's environmental matrix.

Mangrove Preservation on Longboat Key (LBK)

- LBK Citizens Green Team to work with Town staff to create a flyer to be distributed via utility bills and other methods to provide education to all Longboat Key owners to ensure preservation of existing mangroves.
- Flyer to contain information about benefits of mangroves, appropriate trimming of mangroves, who to contact in case of potential violation, etc.
- Congratulations on the completion of the Island-wide mangrove survey. The LBK Citizens Green Team looks forward to working with the Town to provide this information to additional stakeholders.

Water Quality and Native Plantings

- Work toward establishing fishing line recycle bins at popular public fishing areas.
- Continue to work with Manatee County to keep Greer Island and all beaches clean from plastic and other trash.
- Install, maintain, and improve bioswales on Town property to process rain and flood waters, ensuring plants are tolerant of saltwater inundation. Please see Attachment 1, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program flyer regarding bioswales.
- Continue to support removal of invasive plants from Town's Open/Conservation areas.
- Encourage converting turf and neglected areas on private and Town property to Native Planted areas through outreach and education. Green Teams could work with the Garden Club to provide native landscaping awards on the Key (e.g., set criteria for bronze silver and gold awards).
- Add, or continue to add, native plantings to any area developed by the Town (e.g., the Town Center and around the proposed library area). The Town could consider adding placards near the base of some highly visible plantings with a QR code to key to additional information about the native plant.
- After repair Joan M. Durante Park walkways, the park could be a great place to showcase and label native plants.
- Work on a fundraising effort with the Town to rebuild the Joan M. Durante Park Pavillion.

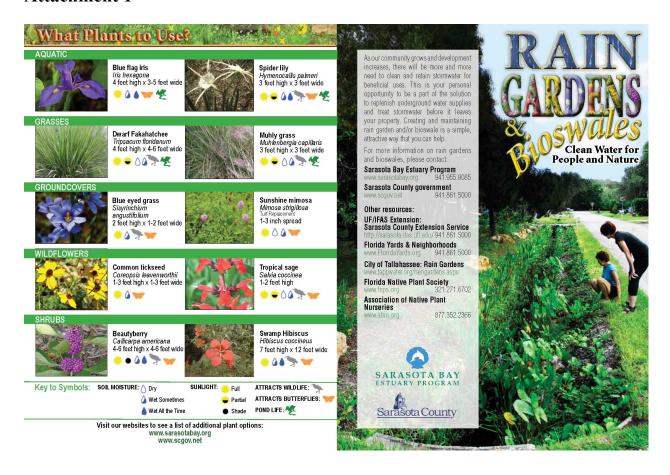
Town Educational Lectures

- Consider a Green Lecture Series on the Town Green. Could be during lunch time, with a bring your own lunch theme.
- Topics could include:
 - Learn to Love your Longboat Key Sewer System Town and personal responsibilities to best to maintain our sewer system.
 - Coastal Sustainability -- emphasizing what LBK residents and visitors can do help make a difference, highlighting local issues and initiatives.
 - o Living Shorelines / Living Seawalls.
 - o Benefits, Care, and Preferred Plantings of Mangroves and Dune Areas.
 - o Infrastructure and Building/Home Changes Toward Resiliency.
 - How to Attain a Zero-Scape Lawn replacing lawns with zero-scape plantings to avoid use of water, chemicals and prevent erosion.
 - O Lessons Learned by the Town from Use of EVs and Electric Landscaping Tools. Could include education for residents interested in setting up EV chargers, as well as information from professional landscapers who are currently using electric equipment. Consider a topic of discussion about additional EV charging stations on Town property.
 - o Protecting property from lithium battery fires.
 - o Update on Complete Streets and Bike Safety

Thank you for your consideration of the above goals and objectives.

Sincerely, The LBK Citizens Green Team

Attachment 1



Creating a Rain Garden or Bioswale

Take an active role in reducing stormwater runoff and keeping our bays and waterways healthy by creating a rain garden or bioswale. Do you have a low spot in your yard where water puddles or a ditch or swale that is difficult to maintain or has standing water in it? If so, you may have the beginnings of a beautiful rain garden or bioswale.

So What Exactly are Rain Gardens and Bioswales? A rain garden can be part of your landscaped vard by removing sod and adding plants to a depressed area designed to capture and retain



excess rainwater allowing it to percolate into the ground or be used by the plants. The plant pallet for your rain garden should consist of

a variety of native Blue eyed grass and Blue flag Iris and bay friendly plants that can handle both wet and dry conditions. By using many different types of plants, you will increase the rain garden's beauty and functionality in controlling stormwater, while providing an attractive habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

A **bioswale** is a conventional ditch or swale, modified and planted with appropriate native and bay-friendly plants to increase water percolation and pollutant removal as stormwater flows through it. Like a rain garden it should be planted with a wide range of plants that can survive a combination of being wet or dry for extended periods.

A bioswale is not usually mowed: it acts as a retention area or flow-through filtration garden. Provide regular maintenance by hand to maintain drainage, manage plants, and remove weeds.



How do Rain Gardens and Bioswales Work?

When rainwater runoff from your roof, gutters, driveway or sidewalk is directed toward your new rain garden, the process is just beginning. Remember to allow water to enter the rain garden slowly so it will not overwhelm the area. The larger the rain garden, the more water



The area is then planted with selected vegetation and mulched to help capture water and discourage erosion. The combination of soil, plants and mulch provides a natural pollutant filter as water is used by the plants or soaks into the soil. The filtering and percolation process and plant uptake helps keep topsoil, fertilizers and pesticides on your property and out of local ponds and bays while adding beauty to your yard.

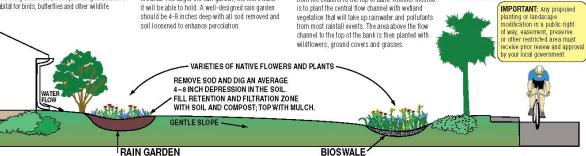
A bioswale functions as a flow-through rain garden in that it must be designed to allow water to percolate into the soil and pass through it during major storm events so that water does not back up and create flooding. Bioswales may be created using rock material for the central flow channel and then planting various types of wetland and semi-aquatic vegetation from the channel to the top of bank. Another method is to plant the central flow channel with wetland vegetation that will take up rainwater and pollutants from most rainfall events. The area above the flow channel to the top of the bank is then planted with wildflowers, ground covers and grasses

During periods of heavy rain, the water may rise up in the flow channel of both sides to maintain flow. It is advisable to leave a 1-2 foot wide vegetated strip along the top of the bank to minimize soil erosion while the bioswale plants are established.



Major Benefits of Rain Gardens and Bioswales for People and Nature:

- Increased rainwater ground infiltration and reduced stormwater run-off
- Reduced stormwater pollutants (fertilizers, pesticides, oils, etc.) that flow into local waterways
- More attractive landscaping and reduced lawn mowing maintenance
- Increased natural habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife



lbkturtlewatch.com



Longboat Key Turtle Watch, Inc. 5380 Gulf of Mexico Dr. Ste 105 Longboat Key, FL. 34228

March 20, 2025

Town of Longboat Key Commission,

Longboat Key Turtle Watch (LBKTW) appreciates the opportunity that the Town provides for citizens, businesses, and groups, like ours, to submit ideas to be considered for the Goal and Objectives for the coming year. Longboat Key Turtle Watch submits the following topics falling under the categories of: Community Character and Environmental/Resiliency.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

- -The 2024 hurricane season caused significant loss of dunes and beach vegetation. LBKTW would like to work with the city and property owners to ensure the safety of the sea turtles. The dunes and vegetation, which used to provide a stopping point for nesting turtles, have now washed away, resulting in the possibility of large sea turtles making their way into swimming pools, parking lots, Gulf of Mexico Drive, etc. We are happy to discuss solutions, such as silt fencing, with the Town and property owners. The massive loss of vegetation, which helped to block lights from parking lots and Gulf of Mexico Drive, may now be visible to adult nesting turtles as well as hatchlings. Disorientations of sea turtles result from artificial light sources that cause sea turtles to go towards the artificial light source rather than away from a naturally dark shoreline area and the naturally lighter water.
- -LBKTW would like to express concern regarding the drastic changes to the dune/vegetation line that will need to be addressed in the "Recreational Use Agreements" as it refers to placement of beach furniture during sea turtle nesting season.
- -LBKTW recommends heightened frequency of nighttime beach patrols early in the nesting season to potentially identify problem areas.
- With the substantial level of tourism traffic, it is important to continue to spread the important message, "Flip a Switch Make a Move," through all available platforms, such as the Observer and social media. Social media offers a cost-effective way to reach these visitors with weekly turnover.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

-LBKTW encourages the town to look at measures to mitigate the raccoon populations. Trash, and access to it, seems to be a basis for increasing populations of animals that cause damage to many sea turtle nests as well as potential dangers for residents and guests on the island. We would like to suggest the use of animal-proof trash bins at the beach access points.

We understand that we are in unprecedented times as we navigate our first sea turtle nesting season with the immense post-hurricane damage. We look forward to a collaboration of solutions with the City, property owners, Longboat Key Turtle Watch, Mote and FWC.

Sincerely,

Tim Thurman
President, Longboat Key Turtle Watch

cc: Longboat Key Turtle Watch Board of Directors



3/10/2025

Stephanie Garcia Office of the Town Clerk Town of Longboat Key 501 Bay Isles Road Longboat Key, FL 34228 sgarcia@longboatkey.org

Re: Submission for the 2025 Goals & Objectives Meeting

Dear Ms. Garcia,

On behalf of The Paradise Center, I appreciate the opportunity to submit feedback for the Town of Longboat Key's 2025 Goals & Objectives Meeting. As a well-established community services organization, The Paradise Center is committed to enhancing the well-being of our residents by addressing a critical and growing concern: the loneliness epidemic among older adults. Our mission aligns with the Town's goals of fostering a premiere community, delivering exceptional services, and prioritizing the well-being of our residents.

We respectfully propose that The Paradise Center be recognized and supported by the Town as a key partner in combating loneliness and promoting social wellness. Below are several ways in which we can collaborate to achieve shared objectives:

1. Formal Partnership for Community Wellness Initiatives

We request that the Town formally partner with The Paradise Center to address social isolation by:

- Incorporating The Paradise Center into the Town's wellness initiatives as a
 designated resource for social engagement, support groups, and lifestyleenhancing programs.
- Including The Paradise Center in the Town's public awareness campaigns focused on mental health and wellness.
- 2. Integration into Town Facilities & Services
 - We propose that The Paradise Center be considered for space within Town facilities, such as the Bayfront Park Recreation Building, to expand our ability to serve the community.
 - As the Town explores smart city solutions, we recommend creating a virtual engagement hub where residents can easily access our services and programs.
- 3. Funding and Grant Collaboration

- We seek to collaborate with the Town's Grants Coordinator to pursue State and Federal funding dedicated to mental health, social wellness, and aging-in-place initiatives.
- We request that The Paradise Center be considered in the Town's budgetary priorities as an essential community health partner.
- 4. Community Events & Programs Sponsored by the Town
 - We propose hosting Town-sponsored wellness programs at The Paradise Center, including community gatherings, wellness workshops, and social engagement initiatives.
 - We offer to assist in conducting surveys and outreach to assess the community's social wellness needs.

5. Inclusion in the Town's Strategic Plan

We ask that The Paradise Center be officially recognized in the Town's strategic planning efforts as a resource that directly contributes to Longboat Key's commitment to exceptional services and quality of life.

By collaborating with The Paradise Center, the Town has the opportunity to proactively address loneliness and enhance the well-being of Longboat Key residents. We welcome the chance to further discuss these proposals at the April 7, 2025 meeting and appreciate your consideration of our request. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely, Amy Steinhauser Executive Director The Paradise Center To: Mayor Ken Schneier

Town of Longboat Key Commissioners

Town Manager Howard Tipton

From: The Friends of Tennis, Inc.
Ron Watts, President

Regarding: 2025 Town Goals and Objectives

Request for Future Use of Parcel at 555 Bay Isles Road for Tennis Center Expansion

In alignment with the Town's **Community Character** and **Quality of Life** objectives, The Friends of Tennis, Inc. respectfully request that the Town reallocate the parcel at 555 Bay Isles Road to the Longboat Key Tennis Center for the construction of three additional tennis courts. This request would take effect following the completion and occupancy of the new library currently planned in coordination with Sarasota County (anticipated for late 2026-2027).

Project Commitment

The Friends of Tennis, Inc. is prepared to fully fund the site preparation and construction of these new courts on behalf of the town. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$200,000.

Background and Justification:

The Longboat Key Tennis Center currently operates with ten regulation courts and one training court, serving approximately 375 paid pass holders as well as additional visitors. Demand is especially high during peak season mornings and early afternoons, with courts consistently occupied by group play, league matches, and lessons.

This season from mid-December through February, over 150 online court reservation requests were denied due to lack of availability, with additional requests made via phone or walk-ins also denied. The tennis center's site is otherwise landlocked, making the 555 Bay Isles parcel the only viable option for future court expansion.

Friends of Tennis, pg. 2

Parcel Considerations

The one-half-acre parcel at 555 Bay Isles is sized appropriately to accommodate three tennis courts. Preliminary discussions with the Town Planning Department indicate that the current parking facilities at the tennis center are sufficient to support the added usage. To improve alignment with existing courts 7-9 and enhance the look of the road setback, a slight adjustment to parcel boundaries may be beneficial. This could also enable the creation of additional overflow parking between the Town Hall and the tennis center.

About The Friends of Tennis, Inc.

Founded to support the Town's efforts in enhancing the tennis facility, The Friends of Tennis, Inc. has a history of direct investment, including helping by funding the previous expansion of courts 7-10. The organization annually contributes to tennis center improvements beyond the Town's enterprise budget, often funding equipment and facility upgrades requested by staff.

Our primary fundraising activity is the annual Masters Tennis Tournament held the week after Thanksgiving. Last year's national event attracted 345 players in age groupings from 50-90 with over 75% traveling here from outside of the Sarasota-Bradenton metropolitan area.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Although the parcel will not be available for 18-24 months, we respectfully ask the Town to consider this request as part of your 2025 planning process. If granted, we will use the interim period to complete site planning and finalize project funding.

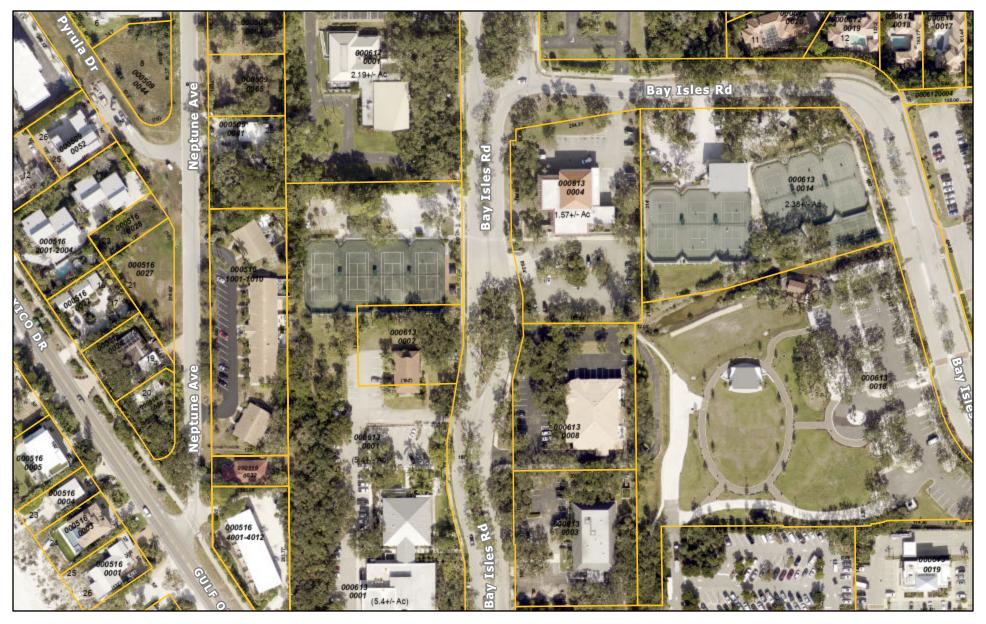
On behalf of The Friends of Tennis, Inc., we thank you for your continued support of the Longboat Key Tennis Center staff and facilities, and for consideration of this proposal.

The Friends of Tennis, Inc. Board of Directors

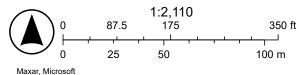
Ron Watts, President Rich Buchanan
Rich McGrath, Vice President Michelle Coates
Ron Plashkes, Treasurer Jackie Gibbins

Mike Langlois, Secretary

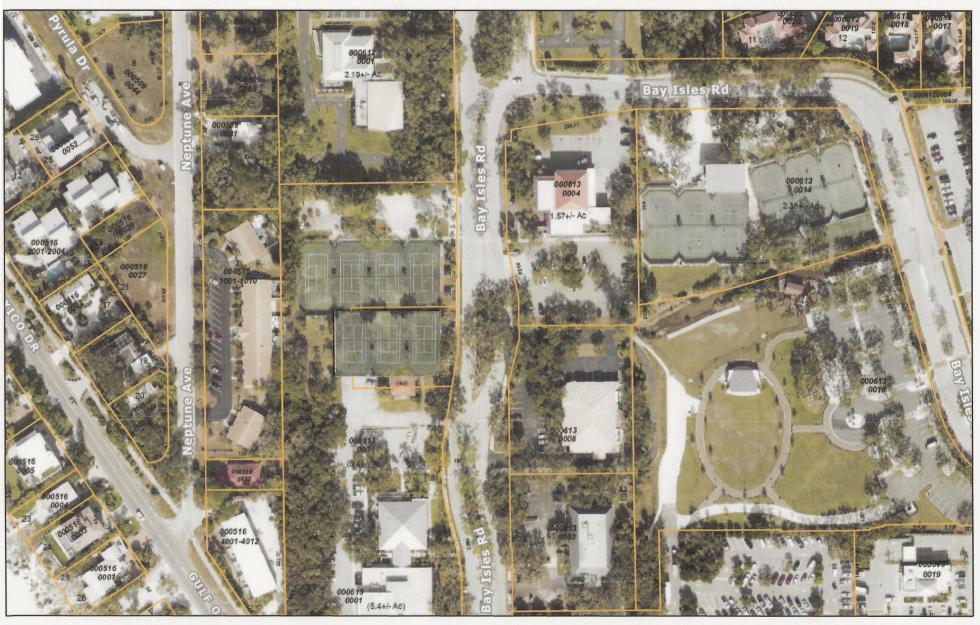
Sarasota County Property Appraiser



3/22/2025, 9:08:50 AM

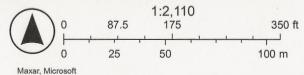


Sarasota County Property Appraiser



3/22/2025, 9:08:50 AM

Propose)
(w/partial shift)



End of Agenda Item

April 7, 2025 Goals and Objectives Special Workshop Meeting Agenda Items 4B – 4C

- 4B. Not in Attendance Written Comments Submitted
- 4C. Attendance Confirmed No Written Comments

No Materials Provided for these Items

End of Agenda Item

April 7, 2025 Goals and Objectives Special Workshop Meeting Agenda Items 5 – 7

- 5. Other Organizations
- 6. Town Commission Discussion
- 7. Adjournment

No Material Provided for These Items

End of Agenda Item