LEE COUNTY
BOCA GRANDE PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hugh Sullivan, District 1, Chair
Louis A. Sarkes, District 1
Bart DeStefano, District 2
Cheryl W. Schum, District 2
Tanya "Nikki" Heimann, District 3
Sara (Sally) B. Downey, District 3
Richard D. Weber, District 4
Barbara McLaughlin, District 4
Sandy K. Stilwell Youngquist, District 4, Vice Chair
Mark A. Spurgeon, District 5
Bruce A. Kenan, District 5
Kimberly G. Whipple, District 3

MEMBERS ABSENT

Boo T. Gemes, District 1
Ronald O. Drake, District 2
Richard J. Ganong, District 5

STAFF

Jillian Scholler, LCDOT
Bruce Littleton, LCDOT
Lidia Hernandez, LCDOT
Joe Adams, Lee County Assistant County Attorney

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda

Chair Hugh Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was present with twelve committee members in attendance. Committee members, Lee County staff, and legal counsel, introduced themselves. Chair Sullivan reviewed meeting procedures and explained the committee's voting requirements and Sunshine Law guidelines.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of the May 13, 2026, BGPC Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed the May 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Members discussed several factual corrections, including the spelling of names and clarification of paraphrased comments. It was agreed that members could submit factual corrections for verification prior to final approval.

The May 13, 2026, meeting minutes were approved subject to verification of the requested revisions. Mr. Sullivan, Chair made a motion to approve the Minutes subject to verification, seconded by Ms. Gemes. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comments

Public comments focused on several topics related to implementation of the parking ordinance, including:

- Continued public education regarding parking regulations.
- Seasonal relief from downtown parking restrictions.
- Economic impacts on local businesses.
- ADA accessibility and parking accommodations.
- Golf cart parking permits for qualifying long-term renters.
- Continued evaluation of ordinance effectiveness.

Committee members acknowledged the public comments.

Agenda Item #4: Presentation of Topics Requested by Board Members

a) Discussion on Education and Signage

The committee continued discussion regarding public education and signage associated with the parking ordinance.

Discussion included:

- Opportunities to improve public understanding of the ordinance through educational materials.
- Additional use of maps, brochures, QR codes, and visitor information.
- Coordination with the Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce, lodging providers, businesses, and property managers to distribute educational materials.
- Improvements to parking maps and directional signage.
- Placement of supplemental informational signs where appropriate.
- The importance of maintaining consistent messaging throughout the island.

Committee members discussed ADA-related questions raised by the public. County staff advised that ADA compliance issues are governed by state and federal law and fall outside the committee's authority to modify through ordinance recommendations.

Members also discussed developing educational materials that clearly explain:

- Permit parking areas.
- Three-hour parking restrictions.
- Public parking locations.
- Resident, guest, employee, and business parking privileges.
- Frequently asked questions regarding the ordinance.

Chair Sullivan reminded members that educational materials developed by committee members outside of public meetings must comply with Sunshine Law requirements.

Following discussion, the committee agreed that improving public education should remain a priority and supported continued coordination with community organizations to provide clear and consistent information regarding the ordinance.

Motion by Richard Weber: Direct the Boca Beacon and Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce to develop an updated parking map incorporating a QR code linking users to additional parking information. Second by Louis Sarkes

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b) Discussion of Seasonal Relief from Ordinance 25-16

The committee continued discussion regarding a proposal to provide seasonal relief from the three-hour parking restriction in the downtown business district during the off-season.

Discussion included:

- The potential economic impacts of the parking ordinance on local businesses.
- Business owner feedback regarding reduced customer traffic during the off-season.
- Bridge traffic counts and available business survey data.
- The relationship between parking availability and business activity.
- Neighborhood quality-of-life concerns and preservation of the island's character.
- Public safety, environmental considerations, and beach overcrowding.
- Enforcement of the current three-hour parking restriction.
- The potential benefits and drawbacks of implementing a temporary seasonal relief period.
- The need to balance the interests of residents, visitors, and the business community.

Committee members also discussed:

- Whether sufficient data existed to support modifying the ordinance.
- Whether a temporary seasonal trial would provide meaningful information for future consideration.
- The importance of continued monitoring before making permanent changes to the ordinance.

Following discussion, a motion was made to recommend seasonal relief from the three-hour parking restriction during the off-season.

During discussion of the motion, members considered:

- The proposed effective dates.
- Whether the proposal should be limited to a trial period.
- Signage implications.
- The anticipated timeline for Board of County Commissioners' consideration.

After additional discussion, the motion was amended to recommend seasonal relief beginning July 6 and ending September 30 of each year, unless modified by future Board action.

Motion by Sally Downey: Recommend seasonal relief from the three-hour parking restriction between July 6 and September 30, subject to Board of County Commissioners' approval.

Roll Call Vote

Member	**Vote**

Sandy Stilwell	Yes
Hugh Sullivan	No
Bruce Kenan	Yes
Cheryl Schum	Yes
Louis Starkes	No
Barbara McLaughlin	No
Kimberly Whipple	Yes
Nikki Heimann	Yes
Richard Weber	No
Sally Downey	Yes
Mark Spurgeon	Yes
Bart DeStefano	Yes

The motion failed because it did not receive the required supermajority vote of the committee.
Following the vote, committee members briefly discussed the process for reconsideration of motions under Robert's Rules of Order and future consideration of ordinance amendments.

c) Discussions of Golf Cart

The committee discussed a proposal to allow qualifying golf cart rental companies to issue parking permits to eligible multi-day renters.

Discussion included:

- Current procedures for issuing parking permits.
- Permit eligibility for hotel guests, house guests, residents, and renters staying on the island.
- Challenges encountered when rental companies deliver golf carts directly to rental properties where parking permits are not readily available.
- The need for consistent procedures among lodging providers, property managers, and golf cart rental companies.
- Documentation and recordkeeping requirements for permits issued by golf cart rental companies.
- Enforcement considerations and safeguards to minimize misuse.
- Whether implementation would require changes to the Parking Ordinance, Administrative Code, or both.

Committee members discussed limiting the proposal to qualifying multi-day rentals and requiring participating golf cart rental companies to:

- Verify that renters qualify for parking permits under the existing ordinance.
- Maintain records identifying the renter, the rental property, and the duration of the stay.
- Issue permits only for the dates corresponding to the renter's stay.
- Comply with all applicable County requirements.

Chair Sullivan noted that any recommendation should ensure accountability while maintaining consistency with the intent of the ordinance.
Following discussion, the committee agreed additional legal review was necessary before making a final recommendation.

Chair Hugh Sullivan Motioned: Direct staff to determine whether changes to the Administrative Code, Parking Ordinance, or both would be required to allow qualifying golf cart rental companies to issue parking permits to eligible multi-day renters, and to return with recommendations for committee consideration.

Second: Louis Starkes, with the understanding that participating in golf cart rental companies would agree to comply with the applicable requirements.

Committee members discussed the proposed motion, including documentation requirements, enforcement considerations, and ensuring that participating golf cart rental companies comply with all applicable County requirements.

County Attorney Joe Adams advised that his office and County staff would research the matter, prepare draft language if appropriate, and present their findings at a future committee meeting.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation of Topics by Lee County Staff

Voting Conflicts of Interest

Joe Adams provided an overview of Florida's conflict-of-interest voting requirements applicable to advisory committee members.

Discussion included:

- Disclosure requirements for voting conflicts.
- Circumstances requiring abstention from voting.
- Filing requirements for conflict disclosure forms.
- The distinction between matters affecting a broad class of individuals and those involving a direct financial interest.

Committee members asked questions regarding the application of conflict-of-interest requirements to various business and investment interests. Mr. Adams explained that determinations are fact-specific and should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. He encouraged members to consult with the County Attorney's Office prior to meetings whenever questions regarding potential conflicts arise.

Sandy Stilwell identified a County-owned property near the former Addison property as a potential resource for future parking or related public use.

Chair Sullivan reviewed potential agenda items for the next committee meeting. The committee agreed that the following topics should be included for further discussion:

- Continued discussion of education and signage updates, including any new information provided by staff.
- Review of and possible action on proposed changes related to golf cart parking permits, pending staff's legal review of the Administrative Code and/or Parking Ordinance.
- Discussion of the Methodist Church parking request regarding parking on the Gilchrist Avenue median between 2nd and 3rd Streets, including potential seasonal and Sunday parking accommodations.

Staff also noted that attendance would be important for the next meeting if action is to be taken on these items.

Agenda Item #6: Next Meeting Date October 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment on any Topic

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #8: Adjournment

Mr. Hugh Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 4:46 PM.

Boca Grande Parking Chairman

10/14/2026
Date

Boca Grande Parking Secretary or Vice-Chair

10/14/26
Date