



The Commons Club at The Brooks



Dear Commons Club Gold Members:

We've had three glorious beach weeks here in Southwest Florida. Whether you and your family have enjoyed our spring break or just a little personal time in the sun, it's been postcard perfect!

That brings me to our most important asset - the Beach Club. Usage is up three times over a year ago. Clearly, we are not back to our ideal status, but those stats are a testament to the environment and experience that Joe, Dawn, and her staff have created for our members. We have a functional bathroom, ice/water machine, chair and umbrella service, games, and, as always, sun, sand, waves & amazing sunsets!

OBVIOUSLY, we know it's not up to what you want, paid for, or deserve. But to restate the obvious, Ian was an unexpected (initially to us) Category 5 hurricane. We are rebuilding, and it will be beautiful. So, stealing completely from Joe Archazki's report at last week's board meeting, here is a brief summary of where we stand.

ALL paperwork has been submitted for review/approval, including Architectural Development Order, Civil Engineering Plans, and TCC Attorney Narrative.

That gives Bonita Springs somewhere between the 13th and 26th of May to respond, per their 45-60 stated Review Period. We have been super careful ALL along the way to comply with every recommendation, comment and critique. However, since they overtly don't want us there, it's possible that they may find something. Until I got neck deep into this, I didn't realize that at the end of the 45-60 day period, they will respond with their Request for Additional Information/adjustments, etc., to the architect/Civil Engineers. Which will allow them to make us go another round or two, but we are hopeful that because they've gone through this with other clubs, it might be faster. I want to be honest about that.

We estimate the building process will take 8 months, once we begin construction. You need to know that we intend to keep the beach open throughout the construction process as long as it is safe for our members. We were very proud to be the first to open after the storm, and heard over and over again how happy our members were to have some beach access, so it is our goal to keep this in place.

Finally, just to clear up some confusion about our neighbors:

West Bay: Yes, they absolutely have a beautiful new facility, BUT they were not impacted by Ian. The old beach club was already demolished and cleared prior to the storm. The development process was also well underway pre-storm, allowing them to begin construction last September.

Mediterra: Was built well after Bonita Bay and TCC, so it was built at a higher elevation. They only sustained roof and interior damage. Both roof and interior renovations are underway.

Bonita Bay: Wiped out by Ian, just as we were, but with a few BIG differences: They started their snack bar discussions with Bonita Springs a year before Ian hit. They did not get approval AND they vote for Bonita Springs officials - we vote in Estero. They did not seek food again after Ian. Also, they have elected to shut the beach down during the entire construction process, and thus, it is now closed and ready for construction to start..

I have said it many times and will continue to say it, we delayed our process in pursuit of food service/snack bar. We knew it was an uphill battle, but we had to try. It was the number one priority for our members, so we pursued it. Unfortunately, we did not prevail.

That is where we stand right now. The ball is in Bonita Springs' court, and we are waiting for their response.

Stay safe & be well,
Jennifer Smyth, President
The Commons Club Board of Directors