

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goggin.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mike Childs, John Goggin, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Ed Scott.

Excused: Tom Gressman and Ron Fleming.

Staff: Public Works Manager Chelsea O'Riley

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 21, 2020 and others.

MOTION: PSC Member Scott moved to approve the minutes; second by PSC Member Jungwirth.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

V. SHELTERS UPDATE

Manager O'Riley reviewed the email she sent to members regarding Connect Point. She revealed that shelter funds were identified on the add-on list but were not appropriated. She noted that funds from the gas tax were available for a pilot project and Town Council would have to approve the shelter. Chair Goggin questioned whether the digital sign in the shelter would be interactive. Manager O'Riley replied that it could be in the future. Chair Goggin discussed access to 911. Manager O'Riley noted that cameras could be installed in shelters. Member Knickle verified the position of cameras. He questioned whether the interactive display would connect to LeeTran. Manager O'Riley replied that it was possible. Chair Goggin described the potential features of interactive displays. Member Jungwirth verified that the first shelter would not have interactive capabilities. Chair Goggin suggested that the Town add to the gas tax to provide interactive displays. Manager O'Riley described kiosks with cameras, speakers and phones separate from the shelter. Chair Goggin stated that installing a prototype without communication would not be much safer and would defeat the public safety aspect.

Member Scott noted the shelter only accommodated two people and he felt it was wasted. Manager O'Riley indicated that larger shelters came with more restrictions. Discussion was held regarding building a pad large enough to accommodate benches in the interim. Manager O'Riley discussed installing an 8 x 30 pad on 5th Street and she suggested installing the same size pad on Bay Road

for consistency. Chair Goggin stated he would present to Town Council at the first meeting in March.

VI. LIGHTING STUDY UPDATE

Manager O'Riley stated that communications between Illuminix, Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) were at a standstill. She was directed to find another light firm to review the current lighting and the lighting study. She indicated that she sent the final lighting report from Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to PSC Members. Member Jungwirth questioned spending money on another study when those funds could be used towards shelters. Chair Goggin questioned what the outcome would be with another study. He discussed protecting people and turtles during different times of the year. He questioned whether anyone connected the turtle disorientation with the faulty light that was replaced. Member Scott suggested that they install the same lights already in neighborhoods and deal with the lights if turtles ended up being disoriented.

Chair Goggin would like to see the criteria for an additional study. Manager O'Riley agreed. Member Knickle suggested installing inexpensive shields at the back of turtle nests to block light from the street and homes. PSC Member Jungwirth questioned shielding the lights on the poles. Members will contact Manager O'Riley with additional criteria.

VII. BRANDING UPDATE

Manager O'Riley indicated a Public Information Officer had been hired.

VIII. FOOT OF THE BRIDGE UPDATE

Manager O'Riley reported that the FDOT would present a concept to Town Council in March. She indicated that she emailed the 60% design to members. She explained that the light at Crescent was on hold.

IX. DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS

Manager O'Riley noted that the sidewalk project was scheduled for next year and would be coordinated with the water project.

X. BIKE PATH TRANSITION AND VISIBILITY

Member Jungwirth discussed pictures of bike paths. She questioned whether they could stripe the lanes with different colors. Manager O'Riley replied affirmatively and indicated that she would have to check FDOT standards regarding the design. Discussion was held regarding experimenting on a section of Estero Blvd. Chair Goggin questioned stencils on sidewalks. Manager O'Riley suggested that PSC bring it up at the next Council meeting. Chair Goggin agreed.

Chair Goggin stated that there was no enforcement concerning lights or bells on bikes at night. He indicated he would bring it up at the next Council meeting. He described insufficient lighting and the risk to public safety.

Discussion was held regarding the Community Resource Advisory Board (CRAB) brochure that included information from other brochures in an attempt to streamline the number of brochures. Chair Goggin stated that he would email their brochure to CRAB with an offer for a member to attend a CRAB meeting.

Chair Goggin indicated that a representative from the Fire Department would attend meetings. Member Jungwirth suggested that a representative from the Sheriff's Department attend. PSC Member Knickle will write a request to the Fire and Sheriff's Departments and email it to Manager O'Riley for submission.

Chair Goggin discussed electric bike legislation. Discussion was held regarding public safety and lobbying the state to oppose the legislation.

MOTION: Member Jungwirth moved to recommend that Council use whatever resource available to oppose the measure; second by PSC Member Knickle.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Goggin brought up submitting public safety tips to the newspaper. He recommended that members create a list of categories and send them to Manager O'Riley. He suggested that they present their idea to Council for their feedback. Chair Goggin questioned including a sketch with the tip.

Chair Goggin questioned keeping track of burnt-out bulbs on streetlights. He stated that he would draft an article with Manager O'Riley regarding the procedure to report burnt-out bulbs and present it to PSC for input before submitting it to the newspaper and website.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XII. MEMBER ITEMS

Member Childs questioned trash cans on sidewalks. Manager O'Riley stated there was a 24-hour window for trash.

Chair Goggin stated that the trees on Estero needed to be trimmed. Manager O'Riley responded that anyone could fill out A Request for Action form.

Member Jungwirth questioned posting an officer at the Yo Taco crosswalk on a trial basis. Chair Goggin read an email to Town Manager Hernstadt from Jen Hillary at the Sheriff's Department discussing why they needed an extra patrol. Member Scott added that there were not enough police to take care of everything and they did the best they could. Member Knickle suggested that a traffic engineer examine the issue. He suggested that they add seasonal barricades on the sidewalks to direct people to cross at crosswalks. Chair Goggin suggested that they wait for the recommendation from the County before moving forward.

Member Jungwirth mentioned asking neighborhoods to sponsor crosswalks.

Chair Goggin questioned who controlled, enforced and maintained the speed in the back bay. He stated that there were posts in the channel without illumination. Manager O'Riley provided a history of the sign issue and the process to reinstall them. She noted she would forward an email from Lee County to members.

Chair Goggin reviewed action items. Manager O'Riley stated she would forward educational material from Lee County Solid Waste and Advanced Disposal to PSC members.

XIII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA - TBD

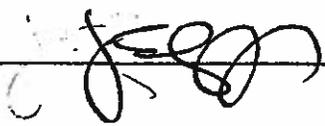
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Scott moved to adjourn; second by Chair Goggin.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Adopted 7-1-20 with/without changes. Motion by KNICKLE
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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