

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, December 15, 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: Suzanne Bahan, Mike Childs, John Goggin, Tom Gressman, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Absent: Tom Gressman

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 17, 2020

Amendment: PSC Member Knickle will schedule a meeting with the Captain regarding outreach.

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

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. RESEARCH & MAKE RECOMMENDATION ON LCSO COMMUNITY POLICING AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Chair Goggin and Director O'Riley met with Captain Brian to review the draft. The Captain took a copy and agreed to provide a summary report to present to PSC. Chair Goggin noted they had not received the report and Director O'Riley will follow up with the Captain. Chair Goggin commented that they would discuss each item on the report to determine where they could affect change. He noted they would do the same with the Fire Department report.

PSC Member Thomas discussed the survey she drafted and encouraged feedback. Topics for discussion included pedestrian safety, the homeless population, bike traffic lanes, Lee County Sheriff's response, street lighting and neighborhood safety.

PSC Member Jungwirth suggested that bike lanes and crosswalks were included under pedestrian safety. Chair Goggin noted that visibility in the crosswalks was a big issue. He reviewed street lighting and crosswalk lighting issues along with the faded street markings. PSC Member Thomas

indicated that she would add subsets under major topics. PSC Member Bahan questioned overhead pedestrian walkways. Chair Goggin replied that previous Councils did not support overhead walkways, but they could bring it up to the present Council. He noted they discussed installing median crosswalks at certain locations last year.

Chair Goggin stated that homelessness was not a crime and they had to address specific activities that made the community uncomfortable. People sleeping on benches was not a criminal activity. Discussion was held concerning an opportunity for community policing and mapping homeless activity to determine whether a link to criminal behavior existed.

PSC Member Jungwirth remarked that they had to differentiate between the markings for bike lanes and bus stops. She suggested using different colors. PSC Member Childs questioned whether there were speed limits for e-bikes. Chair Goggin suggested they look up state law.

Discussion was held regarding the Sheriff's response times. PSC Member Knickle suggested that an open-ended survey question could provide valuable feedback. Chair Goggin indicated they might want to review the current contract with the Sheriff's Office concerning dedicated resources. He questioned whether Director O'Riley would follow up.

Chair Goggin reviewed previous street lighting conversations and the results of a lighting study through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He questioned how much residents would be willing to pay for turtle-friendly lighting. PSC Member Thomas indicated that she would add the question to the survey.

Discussion was held regarding adding qualifiers to the question of whether residents felt safe in their neighborhood. PSC Member Thomas noted she would add specific criminal activities like theft.

Chair Goggin encouraged members to send comments to Director O'Riley.

VII. LIGHT STUDY, RFP UPDATE AND PSC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW

Director O'Riley stated they were under the cone of silence and two firms would be interviewed.

VIII. FOOT OF THE BRIDGE DESIGN STATUS

Director O'Riley reported that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was tentatively scheduled to hold a public meeting at Bay Oaks on January 28, 2021. Chair Goggin stated that they were supposed to discuss the number of crosswalks with Rob Phelan, but the meeting did not happen due to the coronavirus. He questioned whether they should continue to pursue answers to their questions. Consensus was reached to address the number of crosswalks with Council one more time. Chair Goggin will present an update to Council in January and bring up their recommended design.

IX. BAY ROAD SHELTER STATUS (BUDGET AND PROGRESS)

Director O'Riley received confirmation from LeeTran that the shelter would be in place at the start of season. She expected a quote regarding code blue shelters within a day or two.

X. SIDEWALK MARKINGS

Chair Goggin will follow up with Liaison Allers concerning an interlocal agreement with the county.

XI. MEMBER’S ITEMS

Chair Goggin will follow up regarding the cost of bells and lights for bikes. He mentioned educating bicyclists riding the wrong way on sidewalks. Director O’Riley will resend bicycle tips and tricks to members. She welcomed additions to the list and noted she would forward suggestions to Coordinator Dexter.

Director O’Riley stated that the next hazardous waste collection day was scheduled for early February at Bay Oaks.

No items from other members.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XIII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – next meeting TBD

Add reports from the Sheriff and Fire Departments.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Jungwirth moved to adjourn; second by PSC Member Knickle

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Adopted _____ with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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