

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goggin. Members present: Mike Childs, John Goggin, Tom Gressman, Heidi Jungwirth and Jim Knickle.

Unexcused: Ron Fleming and Ed Scott.

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O’Riley

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2020

Correction under VIII.: She indicated that she emailed the 60% sidewalk design to members.

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

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

IV. LIGHTING SCOPE REVIEW

Director O’Riley displayed Chair Goggin’s comments on the Lighting Scope Review for discussion. He described lighting gaps Mid-Island. He noted there was a lack of sufficient lighting between the sidewalks and the road to provide visibility to pedestrians in areas without crosswalks. When talking about lighting a crosswalk, he wanted to be clear that they were talking about the integrated lighting between street lighting and crosswalk lighting, not separate descriptions. He questioned how they would work with a vendor to identify a street lighting design at the foot of the bridge. He noted the timing of the study would have to be coordinated with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Lee County.

Chair Goggin questioned a conflict of interest if the vendor created design options and then leaned the study towards implementing their own design. He stated that they needed an objective study. He suggested that the firm submit designs and then have Town Council responsible for the final decision. He commented that the vendor could consult with implementation.

He suggested that Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF) be involved with the proposals and be a part of the input.

He would like the dates of key decision points to be aligned with input from the community. He suggested one date for the kick-off and another for the 30% plan.

Chair Goggin remarked that he would prefer to present options to Council with a score of the three key objectives of bicyclist/pedestrian safety, turtle compliance and cost. Director O’Riley responded that the consultant would propose one recommendation that met FDOT and turtle

lighting standards. PSC Member Jungwirth agreed with Chair Goggin regarding requiring the vendor to provide more than one option to Council.

Chair Goggin suggested that MRTF and PSC review the draft report. He felt it was important that the vendor provides a video of proposed solutions. He requested a comparison of disorientations to the existing patterns to determine whether a faulty lighting design caused the earlier disorientations. He stated that they never found out whether the disorientations were due to a bad light fixture. PSC Member Jungwirth commented that she purchased turtle lights from the Town last year, but she received a citation for the lights this year. She questioned how they could be sure that the turtle-friendly lights would not change again. Director O'Riley noted that they had to accommodate the change.

Liaison Allers agreed that a visual study presentation would be very beneficial. He noted that watching a video on a screen was much different than observing lighting options in real life.

Shelter Update: Director O'Riley reported that the Bay Road sidewalk was underway and she was working with LeeTran to put a shelter at that location instead of at Avenida Pescadora and Estero Blvd. Chair Goggin read a list of options for shelters and questioned whether staff could price out the options. PSC Members agreed with the idea and Director O'Riley stated she would work with Chair Goggin. Discussion was held regarding the lack of Wi-Fi capabilities down Estero Blvd.

Branding: Director O'Riley indicated that Coordinator Dexter took over branding efforts. Chair Goggin requested a communication plan to keep the community apprised of activities and to maintain a steady flow of information.

Foot of the Bridge: Director O'Riley stated that a meeting with FDOT and Lee County to discuss the foot of the bridge was scheduled for tomorrow.

Chair Goggin questioned whether PSC Members were interested in hearing why previous recommendations were not accepted by FDOT and the County. Director O'Riley stated that the previous Council endorsed the plan and they were running with it. PSC Member Knickle questioned whether they had any influence in the direction the project took. PSC Member Gressman noted it seemed like they put in a lot of effort only to be told no by FDOT. PSC Member Childs questioned whether putting a crosswalk near the base of the bridge was a good idea. Chair Goggin stated there was a level of frustration with advisory committees because of the lack of feedback. Director O'Riley commented that the role of advisory committees had changed. Chair Goggin responded that they were directed to look at crosswalks by Council, but they were never given feedback. He noted that they were supposed to attend a meeting with FDOT and the County to discuss their recommendations at the foot of the bridge, but it did not happen. He will draft a letter of their current endeavors for feedback from Council. Liaison Allers suggested that a member of PSC inform Council of their activities once a month.

Downtown Sidewalks: Director O'Riley reported that the sidewalk project would be in tandem with the downtown project.

Bike Paths and Sidewalk Margins: Director O'Riley indicated that the pandemic prevented a demo, but she hoped to have it done during the next fiscal year.

V. MEMBER ITEMS

PSC Member Gressman stated that nothing relevant to Fort Myers Beach was in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting. He commented that the new bridge was moving very slowly.

PSC Member Ratliff questioned whether FPL was still involved with their lighting. Chair Goggin commented that FPL was the current supplier, but the study would include alternatives. PSC Member Ratliff discussed the astronomical cost if they went with another contractor. He felt it was important to stay with FPL because they would not let a contractor hang lights on their poles. PSC Member Jungwirth felt that closing their beaches and leaving Lee County's open would be a huge issue. PSC Member Gressman noted that Council was in a no-win situation because of Lee County.

Director O'Riley suggested that PSC Members look at monthly department updates. She noted there was a list of lights that were turned off to prevent disorientation. They were working with FPL to remove poles on Crescent St. The 100% plan for the signal at Old San Carlos at Estero Blvd. was submitted to the FDOT last week.

Liaison Allers remarked that FPL did not have a turtle safety light, so they had to research other options. He noted that it was extremely dark in areas with the lights off and he questioned whether they could discuss temporary lighting. Chair Goggin will add the topic to his letter to Council. He congratulated PSC Member Knickle for being selected for the Fire Commissioner slot.

Director O'Riley reviewed the bidding and selection process.
The next meeting will be conducted via ZOOM.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Gressman moved to adjourn; second by PSC Member Ratliff.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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