

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

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mike Childs, John Goggin (via phone), Tom Gressman, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Suzanne Bahan

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 15, 2020 and February 10, 2021**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.**

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

Director O'Riley noted that the email with the community policing article was additional information from the Town Attorney. Chair Goggin questioned whether monthly reports from the Sheriff's Office had been reviewed. PSC Member Knickle replied negatively. Chair Goggin noted they had to review the data before deciding whether to move forward. He questioned whether community policing would be needed year-round or just during season. PSC Member Jungwirth suggested that the officers would get to know people better if they were here all year. PSC Member Childs questioned whether the Sheriff's Office would agree with 6 months versus 12 months. Chair Goggin replied that it depended on whether residents felt disconnected from the police or whether community policing would entail reminding visitors what the laws were. He commented that they had to find out what the community needed first.

PSC Member Thomas agreed that two officers were needed to get to know the people and the Town. She suggested they could conduct safety classes off-season. PSC Member Gressman described the population and he did not see the need for community policing. He did not think that the community felt disconnected from the Sheriff's Office. Chair Goggin agreed and noted

the survey was to identify whether there was a need for community policing. He brought up the cost of hiring two additional officers. Liaison Allers discussed the community feeling comfortable rather than a disconnect from officers. PSC Member Jungwirth reiterated that they needed to hear from the Sheriff's Department. PSC Member Knickle agreed. He described the rash of recent bicycle thefts and expressed disappointment that a representative from the Sheriff's Department was not addressing the issue.

PSC Member Thomas suggested modifying the survey and posting it on the website.

PSC Member Childs questioned why there were no signs informing people that electric bikes were not allowed on sidewalks. Liaison Allers replied that Town Council discussed signs at their recent meeting. PSC Member Gressman commented that visitors were not aware of the rules.

Chair Goggin stated that they needed to finalize the survey and distribute it. PSC Member Jungwirth suggested working with the PIO to promote public comments during their meetings. PSC Member Thomas reviewed questions in the survey. Discussion was held regarding additional questions and priorities. Town Manager Hernstadt contributed suggestions. Chair Goggin stated that they could not provide solutions before identifying the issues. PSC Member Thomas continued the discussion to modify questions. She stated that she would send the final draft to Director O'Riley.

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

Director O'Riley stated that the first meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2021, and PSC Member Childs was their representative. She noted the meeting would not be open to the public.

## **VIII. FOOT OF THE BRIDGE DESIGN STATUS**

Director O'Riley indicated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presentation to Town Council was tentatively scheduled for April.

## **IX. BAY ROAD SHELTER STATUS (BUDGET AND PROGRESS)**

Director O'Riley noted she would contact the gentleman regarding Code Blue.

## **X. SIDEWALK MARKINGS**

Director O'Riley reported that the demo was complete and the vendor would provide a price. The cost of the project was discussed. Chair Goggin commented he would meet with Director O'Riley.

## **XI. BICYCLE LIGHTS AND BELLS PROCUREMENT**

Director O'Riley remarked that the lights should arrive in April. Chair Goggin questioned the bells. Director O'Riley will follow up. She noted that PSC was responsible for distribution. Discussion was held regarding a distribution point at the Fire Department and providing the lights for free.

## **XII. MEMBER ITEMS**

PSC Member Knickle brought up the bike thefts.

Director O'Riley stated that the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department were included in the agenda email blasts. She indicated that the PSC report was due before the April 5, 2021, Town Council meeting. Chair Goggin will send the draft report to Director O'Riley for review.

Liaison Allers suggested adding a QR code for the survey. He brought up creating something to address best practices for bicycle safety.

No items from other members.

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** – no public comment.

**XIV. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA** – April 20, 2021

Add best practices.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Adopted 4/20/2021 with/without changes. Motion by G. DRESSMAN  
(DATE)

Vote: 7-0 Signature: 

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