

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

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

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.

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 16, 2021

MOTION: PSC Member Gressman moved to approve the minutes; second by Chair Goggin

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

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

Chair Goggin noted that recommendations from Randy were included in their packet. He stated they would share the survey results with Town Council along with suggestions to resolve problem areas. He reviewed the questions and suggested changes. PSC Member Thomas and Randy will make the changes. Discussion was held regarding distributing the survey. Director O'Riley stated that she planned to send the survey out by April 26, 2021.

Chair Goggin noted they had not received a police report since December. Director O'Riley and PSC Member Knickle will meet with the new Captain and report back next month. He stated that they met with the Fire Department two months ago. One recommendation was to link short-term rental registrations to self-inspection training programs offered by the Fire Department.

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

Director O'Riley stated the consultant was in town doing fieldwork and she and Town Manager Hernstadt will meet with them at the end of the week.

VIII. FOOT OF THE BRIDGE DESIGN STATUS

Chair Goggin stated that he did not get a reaction from Town Council concerning his offer to discuss zero crosswalks. He will contact Liaison Allers regarding adding the topic to an M&P Session.

IX. BAY ROAD SHELTER STATUS (BUDGET AND PROGRESS)

Director O'Riley indicated she was waiting for a quote.

X. SIDEWALK MARKINGS

Chair Goggin suggested they research the cost for stencils to paint both sides of the sidewalks from Red Coconut to Times Square. He described an image of a bike with an arrow and 5 mph along with an image of a pedestrian. Director O'Riley will obtain the cost and forward the information to Liaison Allers. Chair Goggin suggested adding a Walk Bicycles Past This Point image at Crescent St. Director O'Riley will report back with details.

XI. BICYCLE LIGHTS AND BELLS PROCUREMENT

Chair Goggin stated that he recommended to Council that lights and bells be distributed at no cost, but Council did not react. When he arrived home, he discovered a notice from the Public Information Officer (PIO) that the bells and lights would be sold for \$4.00. He received support to raise the topic with Council again.

PSC Member Thomas questioned how they would mandate that rentals had to add lights and bells. Chair Goggin replied that they were advised they could not tell rental companies how to run their business, but he hoped to revisit the topic with the survey results.

XII. BIKING BEST PRACTICES

Director O'Riley reported that directional signs were installed and additional signs were ordered for the backsides to indicate that bikes were riding in the wrong direction.

XIII. MEMBER'S ITEMS

PSC Member Bahan described an incident with a homeless person after parking her car in a well-lit area under the bridge. She stated that he followed her from her car to Old San Carlos and she ended up running into her business to avoid him. After 30 minutes, she ventured out, but he was waiting for her. She had a short conversation with him and he left. She described her call to 911. No one was sent because she ended up safe in her apartment. She mentioned other incidents at her property and she stated she was scared. PSC Member Bahan indicated that she was applying for a permit to build a fence for her safety. She remarked that churches provided basic needs but did not offer help to get them back into society. She mentioned offering housing, job training and counseling. Chair Goggin stated that there was no single answer, but he hoped a focus group could provide recommendations to help.

PSC Member Thomas clarified which hurricane pass to use. She questioned how to request a streetlight for a side street. Director O'Riley replied that it was a policy decision for Town Council. She agreed that the neighborhood should band together to request a light.

PSC Member Knickle suggested that the homeless be offered assistance off the Island. He doubted that the homeless were on Captiva, Siesta Key or Fifth Avenue South in Naples. PSC Member Jungwirth agreed. She felt that churches were enabling them to stay.

Director O'Riley stated the Lee Tram would end on April 25, 2021. She noted a light was installed at Bay Road by the shelter. She reported that a stormwater contract was approved, including sidewalks on both sides of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and Crescent. She commented that PSC would receive a report next month concerning Facebook posts.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XV. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA

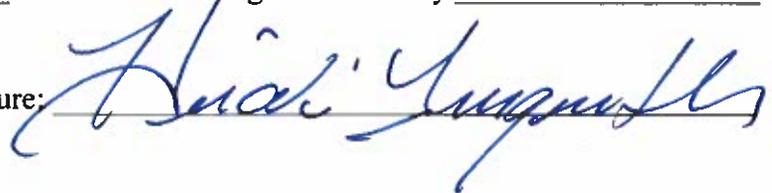
XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Childs moved to adjourn; second by PSC Member Jungwirth.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Adopted 5-18-21 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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