

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

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**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, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Tom Gressman

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley

The minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

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

**V. DISCUSS THE LIGHTING CONSULTANT HANDOUT**

Chair Goggin stated they were discussing requirements and concerns about pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicle operators. The Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF) was responsible for discussing turtle safety. Considerations to be discussed included legal compliance, continuous light source, financial liability, inventory sufficient, design of crosswalk lighting, number of additional poles, lighting coverage, glare impact of white headlights and surrounding lights, health effects, lighting for EMS and uniformity in transition for side streets.

PSC Member Jungwirth felt like they were being made to chose between turtles and humans. She also felt like they were asked to do the consultant's job since the consultants did not bother to research similar communities. PSC Member Thomas commented that she was not an engineer and needed to visualize the different types of lights. PSC Member Bahan agreed and questioned why the consultants could not provide lighting options for turtles and pedestrians.

PSC Member Knickle noted there were trade-offs, but he hoped the consultants could give them solutions to balance the trade-offs. He commented that they had to consider the impact on wildlife and follow the rules and regulations.

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that the consultants were looking at a dual lighting system and the distance the poles were set apart from each other. He described one candle power of lighting with white lights versus amber lights. He noted that the dual white/amber fixture was not readily available, so it would have to be manufactured and evaluated before implementation. Chair Goggin stated that they could not reduce the efficiency for visibility during turtle season than what it would be for the rest of the year. He noted the lighting

had to be consistent for the whole year. Discussion was held regarding the cost of adding new poles versus developing new fixtures for existing poles.

PSC Members reviewed the contents of the handout. Chair Goggin reiterated that there was no difference in lighting between turtle season and non-turtle season. The consultants had to provide a solution to make lighting uniform throughout the year for pedestrians. PSC Thomas brought up uniformity with side streets. Director O'Riley stated that some of the lights were changed on side streets and lights at beach accesses were turned off during turtle season. Chair Goggin questioned the effect on public safety with lights turned off.

Chair Goggin recommended that the consultants interview local fire and sheriff departments regarding their position regarding lights. PSC Member Thomas questioned why one amber light was labeled turtle-friendly, but the other was not. She requested details regarding decreased visibility and cited ambiguous examples from the handout.

Chair Goggin mentioned considering the carbon footprint. He questioned whether the lighting should protect the road, the road and sidewalk or beyond the sidewalk to homes. PSC Member Thomas supported roadway and sidewalk lighting since many homes and businesses were lit. PSC Members agreed.

Discussion was held regarding private versus public maintenance, especially during extreme weather events. Chair Goggin discussed the difficulty of hiring staff and a limited lighting inventory.

Chair Goggin discussed designing lighting in crosswalks individually based on the configuration of the area. He noted the consultant was not tasked with crosswalk lighting and they would have to work with Town Council and Lee County. PSC Member Thomas felt that Town Council should consider addressing crosswalk lighting with the consultant. PSC Member Childs commented that flashing lights at crosswalks were visible during the day. Chair Goggin mentioned eye fatigue with too many rapid response flashing beacons (RRFBs) but felt they should be discussed.

Chair Goggin brought up installing additional poles and noted more poles could affect visibility. He brought up discussing ways to draw turtles to the gulf with lighting. PSC Member Thomas suggested that the consultant needed to research other coastal communities. Director O'Riley responded that the consultants would investigate lighting in other towns. She noted that the consultants did suggest creating a pilot project with different lights to show the differences between visibility.

**VI. MEMBER ITEMS** – no items.

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

**VIII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA** – June 15, 2021

PSC Member Childs stated that he would be out of town.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Adopted 6-15-21 with/without changes. Motion by GOGGIN  
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

• End of document