

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, July 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, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Heidi Jungwirth

Staff: Public Works Director Chelsea O'Riley and Administrative Officer Randy Paniagua.

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 15, 2021

MOTION: PSC Member Gressman moved to approve the June 15, 2021 minutes; second by PSC Member Thomas.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. LCSO AND FMBFD

Captain Tim Lalor from the Lee County Sheriff's Office reported there were no specific trends on the Island.

VII. STATUS OF CODE BLUE QUOTES

Officer Paniagua stated they were researching options from different vendors since Code Blue was not responding to their inquiries.

VIII. MPO MEETING UPDATE – no update.

IX. SIDEWALK MARKINGS AND BIKE SIGNAGE UPDATE – no update.

X. BICYCLE BELLS DEMONSTRATION

Director O'Riley noted that 100 bike lights were given to the school. Consensus was reached to plan a safety event (bike rodeo) in a couple of months to distribute bells and lights and educate riders.

XI. PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS DISCUSSION

Chair Goggin reported that 90% of the respondents felt safe on the Island; however, 69% supported community policing. Captain Lalor explained the formula used to calculate the core level of service in two zones. He indicated that community policing was an enhanced level of service to allow the deputies in the group to find solutions to quality-of-life issues. He described how community policing deputies built relationships within the community and explained how calls were prioritized. Captain Lalor noted that community policing would be involved with neighborhood watch programs and address concerns in the neighborhood. Discussion was held regarding the chain of command.

PSC Member Gressman expressed frustration with the lack of enforcement regarding violations such as lights and bells, electric bikes on sidewalks and jaywalking. Captain Lalor disagreed with his assessment and noted that officers also provided education to visitors. Jaywalking and the law were discussed.

Captain Lalor felt that two community policing officers were not enough, but he was not comfortable recommending a specific number. He stated that there would probably be overlaps in the schedule to maintain effectiveness.

Chair Goggin suggested that PSC structure their August report to shape the issues around what community policing was and what they would or would not get for their money. He indicated that interaction and building rapport was essential with community policing officers. He discussed why two officers were inadequate in light of coverage hours and issues. Chair Goggin noted that setting expectations were critical and they had to be realistic.

PSC Member Knickle discussed levels of public safety and security on the Island. He indicated the measure of success was how the community felt overall, not how many arrests were made on a given day. He supported community policing and recommended a minimum of four officers to make an impact. PSC Member Gressman agreed with community policing and improving the quality of life. PSC Members Thomas, Bahan and Childs concurred. Chair Goggin supported moving forward with community policing and felt that education and interacting with the public were critical. He thought they needed more than two officers, but he did not believe their recommendation would sway Council.

MOTION: PSC Member Thomas moved to recommend to Council that they engage in community policing; second by Chair Goggin.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Goggin discussed crosswalk additions and noted that they had to wait for street lighting recommendations and the end of construction. He brought up PSC hosting a meeting with affected parties to discuss services provided to the homeless population. PSC Members agreed. Education and speed limits surrounding electric devices such as bikes, scooters and skateboards were discussed.

Chair Goggin stated that they would meet with Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF) on July 26, 2021. Director O'Riley added that the meeting would be structured as a workshop and the lighting consultant would attend.

Officer Paniagua indicated that he would identify which areas were interested in neighborhood watch programs.

Chair Goggin suggested researching a parking application to help eliminate vehicle congestion. Director O'Riley noted that it cost a lot of money to implement, and the application did not register parking passes. She will provide a list of pros and cons for discussion at a future meeting.

XII. MEMBER ITEMS

Director O'Riley stated that PSC Members Gressman, Childs and Knickle were up for renewal in October 2021. She noted they needed to fill out an application with the Clerk's Office to remain on the committee.

Director O'Riley commented that the signal project at Old San Carlos and Estero would begin sometime in August and was expected to be completed in six weeks. She indicated that the downtown sidewalk project should be done by the end of the year.

No items from PSC Members.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XIV. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – joint meeting with MRTF on July 26, 2021, and the regular meeting on August 17, 2021.

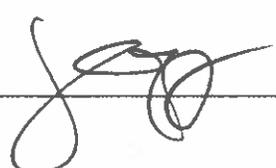
XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Adopted 8/17 (DATE) ~~with~~/without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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