

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

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Suzanne Bahan, Mike Childs, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.
Staff: Administrative Officer Randy Paniagua
Council Liaison: Dan Allers

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2022 (regular and special meeting)

MOTION: PSC Member Jungwirth moved to approve both sets of minutes; second by PSC Member Bahan.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Johnson with Turtle Time and resident, commented on non-compliant side street lights and noted they would be turned off again this year. She encouraged PSC Members to request that Town Council revisit the lighting plan. She will forward her list of lights to Chair Thomas. Jennifer Rusk, Member of Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF), encouraged members to join her in their pop-up booth at the Shrimp Fest. She commented on the dual lighting system and uniformity. Ms. Rusk discussed the hazards to bicycles and pedestrians on the sidewalks. She noted she was almost hit three times recently while riding in the bike lane on Estero Blvd. She suggested adding a sign to the bridge alerting vehicles about the bike lane.

VI. FMBFD UPDATE

Scott Worth, District Chief, reported it was a typical month, but calls were up approximately 20% month over month. He commented that a homebuilder getting ready to demolish their home allowed the Fire Department to use it for training. He noted that they recently filled openings in the department. He indicated that he did not see a delay in response times as a result of construction or the traffic.

VII. TOWN COUNCIL CODE BLUE UPDATE – no update.

PSC Member Jungwirth suggested they contact Town Council for an update. Administrative Officer Paniagua indicated they could speak with Liaison Allers. PSC Member Jungwirth will verify if the code blue stations were in the budget. She contacted former Chair John Goggin and he noted that Town Council had all the information they needed. She suggested they remove the topic from their agenda.

VIII. HOMELESS COMMUNITY OUTREACH – no update.

IX. BICYCLE LIGHTS AND BELLS – DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Chair Thomas commented that she would work with the school regarding distribution.

Rob Phelan, Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT), discussed plans for bike lane markings. He noted they followed the FDOT Green Book guidelines and described examples of conflict points with bike lanes. He stated they needed to observe and document problem areas to determine the frequency of conflicts. PSC Member Knickle described reflective bumpers and questioned whether installing them on the car side of bike lanes was feasible. Mr. Phelan replied that they were called reflective pavement markings (RPM) and they used white, yellow and red to correspond with the location of the markings. He stated that adding the markings would reduce the lane's width, but he would look into it.

Chair Thomas noted that she requested a report from the Sheriff's Dept. regarding bicycle/car accidents and where they occurred. Mr. Phelan stated that observing and documenting conflict points would be a labor-intensive activity and he questioned whether PSC Members were interested in participating. Chair Thomas thought members of the community would help. Mr. Phelan wanted an unbiased analysis and felt PSC Members had some expertise. She questioned adding more signage. Mr. Phelan replied that they decided to remove approximately 70 signs to prevent sign fatigue years ago. Chair Thomas asked about green markings on the pavement. Mr. Phelan replied that it was expensive and they did not have much documentation and the markings did not last very long. He commented on adding markings to specific locations and noted they were not to inform drivers of bike lanes but to warn of a potential conflict. PSC Member Knickle stated the town had many opportunities for bike and car conflicts. Mr. Phelan discussed challenges they had to deal with on Estero Blvd. due to the limited space. He described the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Mr. Phelan discussed crosswalks and lighting. Administrative Officer Paniagua suggested that PSC Members include Mr. Phelan's request to observe and document conflicts in their report to Town Council.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY WEBPAGE AND EDUCATION – NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH & FMBFD FIRE SAFETY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS – no update.

XI. MPO MEETING UPDATES

PSC Member Bahan noted she could not attend the January meeting, but she would obtain the minutes. She indicated that she had a business to run and could not commit to attending meetings every month. Chair Thomas proposed rotating PSC Members for meetings if allowed and PSC Members agreed.

XII. MEMBERS ITEMS

PSC Member Childs suggested they look at all the crosswalk lighting. Administrative Officer Paniagua stated that they already had a lot of data on crosswalks and he indicated he would share pertinent information.

PSC Members Knickle and Childs will check for burnt-out lights at the south end.

Chair Thomas reported that she requested an update on the lighting plan at the last Town Council meeting.

PSC Member Jungwirth commented that the Vice Mayor requested that PSC investigate where people were drinking before the recent fatality. She did not feel that an investigation was their responsibility. Although the driver was impaired, the lighting in that location was a problem, and PSC Members agreed the accident was a law enforcement issue.

PSC Member Bahan noted the MPO meeting schedule was on their website. Chair Thomas stated she would attend the February 18 meeting at 10:00 a.m. PSC Member Jungwirth will attend the May 13 meeting from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Johnson, resident, commented on crosswalk lighting. She noted they might want to look at amber lights at the Bahama Beach Club designed by the Sea Turtle Conservatory. Ms. Johnson added that Publix installed amber LED lights on the north side of their parking lot and building. She commented that she reported burnt-out lights to FPL.

XIV. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – March 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

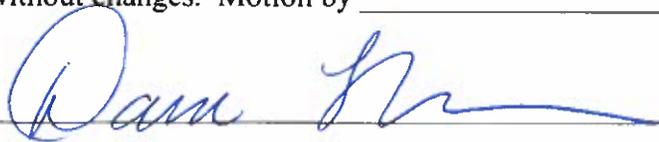
XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Adopted 4-15-22 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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