

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Tuesday, August 16, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Suzanne Bahan (via phone), Dan Blanchette, Jim Bougoulas, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Mike Childs

Interim Public Works Director: Jason Freeman

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 17, 2022

MOTION: PSC Member Jungwirth moved to approve the minutes; second by PSC Member Knickle.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. LCSO UPDATE

Chief Martin discussed purchasing pedestrian lights for community giveaways.

Liaison Allers reported that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) removed some crosswalks at the base of the bridge, the guardrail at the ice cream shop will be added back in, the south side of the bridge will be widened and the Buttonwood alternating light would remain. He stated that the county was reviewing the flashing light near Lenell. An estimate for the dual light was just under \$1 million. Chief Martin explained that the fire department did not have a lot of data for Lenell, but near-misses were observed daily by the fire department. He discussed reducing community risk and noted that messaging and outreach were important to start reducing risk.

PSC Member Jungwirth questioned whether there was a sign for the fire truck entrance on Estero Blvd. Chief Martin thought there was, but he will find out and let PSC Members know. He received word from Chief Worth that signage was at Lenell.

VII. STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ITEMS

A. Bike Lanes and Markings – Suggestions/Ideas – no update.

Discussion was held regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety.

B. Crosswalk Update

1. PIO to ask for Public Commentary
2. Reports from FMB Fire Dept. – Flashing light/call out near Lenell – see above.

C. Public Safety Webpage and Education Update

The PIO was holding an event on October 15, 2022. Chair Thomas will contact the PIO to find out if the PSC can get involved and distribute bells and lights. PSC Member Knickle suggested creating a laminated public safety informational card and putting them in rental units. Liaison Allers described the pop-up events hosted by Marine and Environmental Resources Task Force (MERTF) and wondered whether PSC would be interested in holding an educational event.

D. Bell and Lights for School Update

VIII. MPO MEETING UPDATES – no update.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

PSC Member Blanchette introduced himself and described the increased traffic on Estero Blvd.

Jim Bougoulas introduced himself and noted he was building a home on Pepita St.

PSC Member Jungwirth revealed that she moved across the bridge but was still in the 33931 zip code. Interim Public Works Director Freeman will check the policy.

PSC Member Knickle commented on the October 15, 2022, Safety Day. He hoped the PSC, town and Sheriff's Office would work together as partners with the fire department. He thanked Liaison Allers for his involvement with the light at Lenell.

Officer Bonora discussed the homeless population throughout the county and stated their department worked with multiple agencies for assistance. He brought up social media problems and people posting pictures out of context. He noted the transient and homeless populations on the beach were significantly less than in the past. He remarked that they were human beings and all had different reasons for being homeless. Officer Bonora indicated that officers enforced ordinances on the books. Liaison Allers brought up a video posted by a man who provoked another man on the beach and claimed he was homeless. Officer Bonora stated that the individual being provoked was a resident on the beach. Chair Thomas suggested getting an update from the churches at a future meeting.

Liaison Allers stated that the fixture being tested by Florida Power & Light (FP&L) was out of the chamber, but the town would not have an answer until possibly October. He discussed potential costs to the town depending on the fixture used and indicated that Council set aside \$500,000.00 for lighting Estero Blvd. PSC Member Knickle felt that Lee County should be willing to accept responsibility to ensure Estero Blvd. was lit properly. He thought the town should continue to work with the county and cost-share with them as needed. Liaison Allers commented that Lee County was willing to work with the town.

PSC Member Bahan thanked the Fort Myers Beach fire department regarding the fire that affected her property. Their quick response saved her family's business.

Interim Public Works Director Freeman stated that renewal applications for PSC membership were due at noon on Friday, September 23, 2022.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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