

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Mound House
451 Connecticut St.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

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: Ron Benak (via phone), Jim Bougoulas, Keran Farrell, James Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Dan Blanchette and Heidi Jungwirth.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 17, 2023

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Fire Chief Wirth distributed data regarding call volume and highlighted the increase in hazardous calls surrounding construction and debris. Chair Thomas shared concerns from a resident regarding improper wiring and the possibility of fires. Chief Wirth replied that they saw a potential with bad circuits, but the overall fire count was not up. He felt that people were catching things as they came up.

Lt. Chitwood from the Sheriff's Office stated that they were monitoring the daily population regarding increased traffic and had not seen anything to cause concern. Chair Thomas questioned whether the crosswalk at the base of the bridge would be removed. Lt. Chitwood did not know and would find out.

VII. SIDEWALK PROJECT

Chair Thomas will contact PSC Member Jungwirth to update the map.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN AND MESSAGING

Chair Thomas noted that traffic was quiet right now. She will contact Communications Coordinator Dexter regarding what she has planned about messaging. PSC Member Knickle felt it was important for the Town to inform the public what changes were being made regarding traffic and pedestrians. Chair Thomas questioned the status of the proposed roundabout and signs to exit the island. PSC Member Knickle responded that the roundabout was a state project and did not know the status after Jan.

Chair Thomas described unsafe buildings that have not been cleaned up or torn down. PSC Member Knickle agreed that Times Square was unsafe and PSC Member Bougoulas noted that the fireworks would draw more people down there. He suggested installing temporary fencing or barricades before the fireworks. PSC Member Benak described a rat problem in his neighborhood due to the debris. PSC Member Knickle stated there were also rats at the Wyndham property.

IX. BICYCLING UPDATES – no update.

X. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

PSC Member Bougoulas suggested that signs be added to crosswalks informing people to stop for pedestrians. Chair Thomas indicated she would contact the liaison from Lee County for more information.

PSC Member Knickle stated that people were using the center lane for passing traffic and questioned what the Sheriff's Office could do to prevent that. Lt. Chitwood will follow up.

PSC Member Bougoulas distributed and described information regarding a two-way code red communication system for subscribers so first responders knew who was staying on the island during an emergency. Chief Wirth noted that information would be helpful in targeting searches. PSC Member Bougoulas commented that he would follow up with the Town manager.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – January 16, 2024

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Farrell moved to adjourn; second by PSC Member Bougoulas.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Adopted 1-16-24 with/without changes. Motion by BENAK
(DATE)

Vote: 7-0 Signature: Amy Baker, Town Clerk

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