

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Mound House
451 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

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 Zoom), Keran Farrell, Heidi Jungwirth, James Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Jim Bougoulas and Dan Blanchette.

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

Staff Liaison: Tom Yozzo

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 21, 2024

MOTION: PSC Member Jungwirth moved to approve the minutes; seconded by PSC Member Farrell.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Lieutenant Chitwood from the Lee County Sheriff's Office reported that there was nothing notable to report. Extra patrols would be in town over the Labor Day weekend. He described the disturbance on the island's south side and noted no one was hurt.

VII. HURRICANE RESPONSE PLAN

Tabled to the next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN AND MESSAGING – discussed below

- A. Electric Bike Messaging
- B. Crosswalk Messaging
- C. FDOT Roundabout Messaging
- D. Survey – tabled to the next meeting

IX. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

Liaison Allers reported that he attended a meeting with FDOT and others last week and expressed concerns regarding the traffic flow and how it was set up. He noted that the town, Lee County and Margaritaville were unaware that the traffic pattern would continue for the entire length of the project. The town will participate in the weekly calls on Thursdays for updates. Liaison Allers stated that their concerns were being addressed and he will provide updates. Discussion was held regarding getting on and off the island and adding officers to direct traffic at Crescent and Estero and Crescent and Fifth during high-traffic times.

Liaison Allers stated that staff sent photos of sidewalks that needed replacements to the county and they were searching for a vendor to perform the work. The light at Fifth has not been replaced and staff will follow up this week.

Liaison Allers reported that a draft ordinance for e-bikes will come before the Council and they will discuss whether to allow e-bikes on sidewalks and the beach. Chair Thomas brought up placing mats for e-bikes and other electric vehicles along the beach from Red Coconut and ending where Hooters used to be. Liaison Allers replied that it was a viable solution and was being discussed. PSC Member Benak suggested that the new walkover planned by the Red Coconut developers allow public access to keep people and bicycles off Estero Blvd. Discussion concerning the project ensued.

Liaison Yozzo reported they were still working on the north path project for e-bikes and golf carts. The staff surveyed the lights on Estero Blvd. and sent the report to the power company to determine why the lights were off. Liaison Allers commented that he was told that the lights were on now. The underground conduit for the lights was being installed and the crews were moving quickly from south to north.

PSC Member Jungwirth stated that she will not reapply for membership in PSC. She may or may not attend the September meeting. PSC Members thanked her for her service.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comment

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – TBD

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Jungwirth moved to adjourn; seconded by PSC Member Farrell.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Adopted 11-19-24 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(Date)

Vote _____ Signature 

• End of document