

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Thursday, February 20, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Todd Capela, Keran Farrell, James Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Ron Benak and Jim Bougoulas.

Staff Liaison: Thomas Yozzo

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 23, 2025

James Knickle had an excused absence.

MOTION: PSC Member Farrell moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by PSC Member Capela.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Lt. Chitwood stated that there was nothing to report, but he was happy to answer questions. Traffic control was discussed. There were no e-bike incidents.

VII. FINALIZE OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION FOR E-BIKE SIDEWALK AND BEACH TRAVEL FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Chair Thomas suggested that a line be drawn on the sidewalks from Times Square to the Red Coconut separating bikes and pedestrians with graphics and bikes have to flow with traffic. There should be a 10 mph limit for bikes. She supported Lt. Wirth's idea of adding a railing from Times Square to I Street with rumble strips so cars know it was a bike lane. She acknowledged it would take time and money, but that was her first preference. She thought people should walk their bikes in congested areas like Lani Kai and Margaritaville or ride in the street.

PSC Member Capela agreed with Lt. Wirth's idea but noted it would be expensive. He supported marking the sidewalks and making more room for pedestrians. He felt that three feet would be enough for bikes.

The first recommendation to the town council was to allow all bikes on the sidewalks and mark the sidewalks from Times Square to Red Coconut with markings showing that bikes need to go with traffic. There should be three feet for the bike lane, with the rest for pedestrians, signage indicating that bikes go with the flow of traffic and that no bikes ride on the sidewalks from Margaritaville to Times Square. Bike riders must walk their bikes or use the street.

Discussion was held regarding whether bikes or pedestrians should be closest to the road. A consensus was reached that pedestrians should be closest to the street. Liaison Yozzo suggested creating a map for clarity when presenting to the town council. PSC Member Capela suggested adding banks of bike racks by the Lani Kai so people can park their bikes and walk to Times Square. PSC Member Knickle wondered whether the Lani Kai would put bike racks in their parking lot.

MOTION: PSC Member Knickle moved that Chair Thomas present this information to the town council as a recommendation from the PSC, seconded by PSC Member Farrell.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

PSC Member Capela thought the tram was useless and held up traffic because it only went 11 mph. He asked what they needed to do to discontinue the service. Chair Thomas asked about having a trolley on the beach during season. She described it as a big buggy pulling a couple of tram carts and people could get on and off. Liaison Yozzo suggested that Chair Thomas talk to Environmental Projects Manager Chadd Chustz regarding environmental impacts and public safety. Discussion was held regarding traffic congestion. No items from other members.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – TBD

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Farrell moved to adjourn, seconded by PSC Member Knickle.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

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

Vote _____ Signature _____

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