

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Bay Oaks Recreational Center
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Tuesday, June 17, 2025

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, Todd Capela, Keran Farrell, James Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Jim Bougoulas

Staff Liaison: Thomas Yozzo

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 28, 2025

MOTION: PSC Member Capela moved to approve the minutes; seconded by PSC Member Knickle.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

No report.

VII. E-BIKES

Chair Thomas noted that a resolution had been approved to allow E-bikes on the sidewalks and E-bike safety information had been published on the website. She indicated that once the season starts, education needs to be ramped up. For example, people should get off their bikes in high-traffic areas. PSC Member Benak added that they had to walk their bikes in Times Square before Ian. PSC Member Knickle commented that proper signage and training would help. PSC Member Capela suggested that the Rangers should be out. PSC Member Benak commented that they were not law enforcement, but could educate people.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

PSC Member Benak noted that large portions of the sidewalk around Estero and Connecticut were still missing. He stated that whoever was installing the fiber optics was cutting the concrete and replacing it with asphalt. Now the asphalt was coming loose. He would like to discuss future evacuations and when to allow residents to return to the island.

PSC Member Farrell found a website for funding bicycle communities and offered to send an email to Lee County.

Chair Thomas indicated that grass was growing out of some of the grates on Estero. Director Yozzo replied that he had a conversation with the county yesterday and would follow up.

PSC Member Knickle asked about adding turtle-friendly lights at Lennel and the construction zone at Wyndham. Director Yozzo responded that Lee County had been contacted about mitigating the issue and he would follow up.

PSC Member Capela asked about the stripe down the middle of Old San Carlos. Director Yozzo indicated that Community Services Director Jeff Hauge was looking into it. There were limitations due to the size of the road, but he was consulting with the town attorney to address it. PSC Member Capela described how people were driving in the middle of the road to avoid the parked cars. He brought up the lines on the road at the base of the bridge. Director Yozzo stated that a meeting was scheduled with the director of the project on Thursday. PSC Member Capela would like to work on activating the park and ride on Pine Ridge to keep traffic off the island. Time and money were the two levers to encourage people to use it. He mentioned dedicating the center lane for the trolley or buses, but did not know who to contact. He also felt that parking had to be much more expensive to encourage people to use the park and ride. Discussion was held regarding emergency vehicles having access to the center lane and Director Yozzo indicated that a conversation would have to happen with LDOT (Lee Department of Transportation) once everything was turned back over from the FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) project. Director Yozzo described the process to ensure that emergency vehicles can navigate through traffic using the center lane. He noted that the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department were concerned about the issue and public safety.

Director Yozzo suggested residents talk to their neighbors ahead of hurricane season and he described a weekly tips program to discuss how to prepare for the season. He noted that Raleigh Baker would be attending the meetings as liaison starting in August. He hoped they would be in the new town hall in about a month.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

X. SET AGENDA AND DATE – August 19, 2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Farrell moved to adjourn.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____

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