

**MINUTES  
FORT MYERS BEACH  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Thomas. ✓

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ✓**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Suzanne Bahan, John Goggin, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Mike Childs

Staff: Administrative Officer Randy Paniagua ✓

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 16, 2021**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Karen Woodson, resident, lives two blocks from the main intersection at Times Square and stated that people do not use crosswalks or pay attention to the new light. She added that pedestrians in front of the Lani Kai and Yo Taco blocked Estero Blvd. She suggested a way to remove the left-hand turn lane during construction temporarily.

**VI. LCSO & FMBFD UPDATE**

Lieutenant Mark Bonora from the Lee County Sheriff's Office reported that New Year's Eve went well and everyone was well mannered. He addressed the traffic at Times Square and noted there was a lot of construction in the area and officers were dealing with the traffic the best they could. He stated there were no crime trends in the area. Lieutenant Bonora noted their first goal was to educate pedestrians. PSC Member Jungwirth suggested that citations be issued to people who jaywalk or ignore crosswalk signals to set an example. Lieutenant Bonora replied that it was a fine line and he thought the bigger problem was up and down Estero Blvd. Chair Thomas noted she would contact Town Council Members regarding the traffic issue.

PSC Member Knickle suggested temporary signage and creating barriers to direct pedestrian traffic. He commented that it was a temporary situation and once the project was completed, gentle

enforcement could go a long way to establish a pattern of behavior. He questioned whether the recent fatality could have been avoided with signage or something else, and Lieutenant Bonora did not think so. PSC Member Goggin noted that community policing would go a long way to help with traffic congestion. He suggested forming a community group to make its opinions known regarding the foot of the bridge design.

Community Member Scott Wirth from the Fire Department (FD) reported that they received 260 calls in December, 80% were medical and the rest were property calls and one fire. He agreed there was nothing the Town could have done to prevent the fatality on Estero. He described FD response to the tornado in the Iona/McGregor area.

PSC Member Goggin questioned whether to work on minimum instruction requirements for all recreational vehicles.

## **VII. TOWN COUNCIL CODE BLUE UPDATE**

Liaison Allers stated that it had not been addressed.

## **VIII. HOMELESS COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Chair Thomas met with representatives of churches and a discussion will follow at the special meeting.

## **IX. BICYCLE LIGHTS AND BELLS – TOWN COUNCIL MANDATE UPDATE & DISTRIBUTION PLAN**

Liaison Allers stated that they were working on creating an ordinance. PSC Member Goggin reported that the state only required red reflectors during daylight hours.

## **X. PUBLIC SAFETY WEBPAGE AND EDUCATION – NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH & FMBFD FIRE SAFETY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

Chair Thomas reported that Communications Coordinator Jenny Dexter would work with PSC to design a public safety page and education. Chair Thomas noted that she would create a list of topics and distribute it to members for their input. She discussed working with the fire department to use links from their safety page. Chair Thomas will work with the fire department regarding educational materials for Fire Prevention Month. She described a meeting with Tiffany at the Lee County Sheriff's Department regarding presentations for neighborhood watches.

## **XI. MPO MEETING UPDATES – no update.**

## **XII. MEMBERS ITEMS**

PSC Member Goggin questioned the status of the lighting study. Liaison Allers replied that the Mayor and the county were negotiating. PSC Member Goggin stated that he moved and had to resign from the PSC. PSC Members thanked him for his contributions over the years.

PSC Member Jungwirth noted that someone was passed out in the post office lobby

Chair Thomas thought the Town had a problem with bicycles taking over the sidewalks on Estero Blvd. She suggested that the Town rethink the bike lanes in the north end. Lieutenant Bonora commented that it was an infrastructure issue. He shared a picture with members. Liaison Allers indicated the Town was working with Lee County regarding green bike lane markings. Discussion

was held concerning a stripe on sidewalks. PSC Member Knickle questioned adding a reflective green line to the bike lane at the island's south end to prevent motorists from straying into the bike lane. Liaison Allers will bring it up at the next Council meeting. PSC Member Goggin suggested adding rumble reflectors. PSC Member Knickle noted that he was talking about the rumble reflectors.

Liaison Allers thanked PSC Member Goggin for his service. He indicated that people were using the center lane to pass vehicles. Lieutenant Bonora mentioned adding marks in the center lane to alert cars to crosswalks.

No items from other members.

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** – no public comment.

**XIV. SET NEXT NEXT MEETING AGENDA** – TBD

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was holding a meeting concerning the base of the bridge on February 3, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel by the Sea. He encouraged everyone to attend.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Adopted 2-8-22 with/without changes. Motion by JUNGWIRTH  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: 

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