

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

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: Mike Childs, Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused/Absent: Suzanne Bahan

Staff: Administrative Officer Randy Paniagua

Interim Public Works Director: Jason Freeman

Council Liaison: Dan Allers

Jason Freeman introduced himself.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 15, 2022

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Chair Thomas moved to extend the public comment section; second by PSC Member Jungwirth.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF) Chair Steve Johnson distributed a document and addressed public safety concerns regarding different colored lights in Times Square, Bayside Park and Old San Carlos Blvd. He discussed the need for transitional lighting and explained the photometric study at Times Square. He referred to a map and pointed out specific areas of concern for pedestrians and bicyclists. Chair Johnson discussed illumination and lighting levels. He read the recommendation from PSC in May of 2021, which called for consistent year-round lighting on Estero Blvd.

Chair Thomas and PSC Member Jungwirth agreed that the PSC had not changed its position on consistent lighting. PSC Member Childs questioned the Florida Department of Transportation

(FDOTs) footcandle requirement for crosswalks. Chair Johnson was not sure, but roadways were one footcandle.

Liaison Allers stated that the new lights were fully adjustable and dimmable. Chair Johnson clarified that site lights would be two different colors for six months of the year. Liaison Allers will check whether site lights are color changeable.

VI. LCSO & FMBFD UPDATE

Lieutenant Mark Menard reported no issues over spring break and reminded people to lock up their bicycles and scooters. PSC Member Knickle questioned the lack of enforcement at the south end. Lieutenant Menard replied that two deputies were assigned to the beach to handle calls for service and enforce town ordinances. He described the territory they had to cover and encouraged people to call when they saw something. He discussed the difficulty of patrolling by bike.

Scott Worth from the Fire Department reported 389 calls in March with no structure fires and noted the call volume was consistent with last year. He reminded people to prepare for hurricane season.

VII. BICYCLE LIGHTS AND BELLS

PSC Member Childs mentioned a bright bicycle light called the NiteRider.

- A. Distribution Plan – no update.
- B. Bike Lanes and Markings

Chair Thomas read emails from Rob Phelan regarding green bike lanes and unsafe crosswalks. He suggested that PSC create a list and rank crosswalks based on safety and present it to Town Council. Town Council could then request additional funds for crosswalks from Lee County. PSC Member Knickle described all the crosswalks around Santini Plaza. Chair Thomas will contact Mr. Phelan for criteria. She commented on unsafe areas at the TPI construction site and the parking lot at the base of the bridge.

Discussion was held concerning Florida's crosswalk regulations and determining which crosswalks were unsafe. Administrative Official Paniagua will get a list of the crosswalks and complaints and check with Communications Coordinator Jennifer Dexter regarding public input.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY WEBPAGE AND EDUCATION UPDATE – ongoing.

IX. LIGHT OUTAGE REPORTS

Administrative Official Paniagua emailed a map of lights to PSC Members. Discussion was held regarding shielding lights.

X. MPO MEETING UPDATES – no update.

XI. MEMBER ITEMS

PSC Member Childs requested that the light map be larger and Liaison Allers suggested adding crosswalks to the same map.

No items from other members.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XIII. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

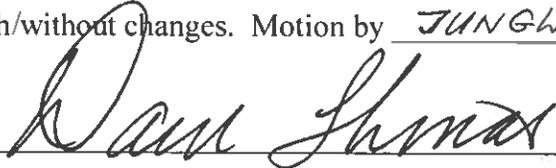
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

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

Adopted 5-17-22 with/without changes. Motion by JUNGWIRTH
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

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