

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Tuesday, September 20, 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: Suzanne Bahan, Dan Blanchette, Jim Bougoulas, Heidi Jungwirth (via phone), Jim Knickle and Dawn Thomas.

Excused: Mike Childs

Public Works Manager: Jason Freeman

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 16, 2022

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

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

VI. LCSO UPDATE

Lt. Mark Menard from the Lee County Sheriff's Office reported no trends or updates other than that Labor Day went smoothly. PSC Member Knickle questioned whether Lt. Menard would provide them with statistical data regarding traffic citations issued on Estero Blvd. Lt. Menard replied that PSC Member Knickle would have to submit a public record request through the Sheriff's Office.

VII. STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ITEMS

A. Bike Lanes and Markings – update regarding new markings Mid-Island

PSC Member Jungwirth thought the markings looked great. PSC Member Knickle observed that cars tended to go around the bus stop rather than cut through it and felt it was effective. PSC Member Jungwirth noticed the same activity. PSC Member Bougoulas commented that the color grabbed his attention and reminded people to be aware. Chair Thomas was hopeful they could find a creative solution with Lee County to alleviate pedestrian and bicycle congestion from Red Coconut to Times Square.

B. Crosswalk Update

Chair Thomas reported that Lee County provided funds to add a flashing crosswalk at Lenell which would be installed in six to eight months.

1. PIO to ask for Public Commentary – no update.
2. Report from Councilman Allers - Flashing light/call out near Lenell update – no update.

C. Public Safety Event in October update

1. Event Plans

Communications Coordinator Jenny Dexter indicated that the fire department was leading the event on October 15, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and included the Lee County Sheriff's Office. The PSC would have a booth with safety information and she wanted to provide two publications approved by the PSC. The cost would be approximately \$150.00 for both flyers.

2. How the Safety Committee Can Help

PSC could distribute lights and bells at the event. Manager Freeman indicated that he would check with the supplier whether lights and bells could be ordered and received in time. Chair Thomas noted that she would contact the new Principal regarding distributing lights and bells at the school.

MOTION: Chair Thomas moved to allocate approximately \$150.00 for the flyers; second by PSC Member Bougoulas.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Dexter will attend the event and PSC Members Jungwirth and Knickle will participate.

Coordinator Dexter discussed emergency preparations and noted she would be in the emergency operations center and communicate information through various media outlets. She reminded listeners to pick up a hurricane pass at the front desk at Town Hall if they needed one.

VIII. MPO MEETING UPDATES

PSC Member Blanchette reported that the MPO reviewed financials but nothing related to The Town. LeeTran discussed improvements to bus stations around the county. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) liaison noted there was a regional grant opportunity meeting on October 15, 2022, at the North Fort Myers Library. Chair Thomas questioned whether the MPO ever discussed the efficiency of LeeTran. PSC Member Blanchette replied negatively and noted that the meeting lasted less than 30 minutes.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

PSC Member Bahan said she would not reapply to serve on the committee. Manager Freeman encouraged interested parties to apply for any committee by noon on September 23, 2022. PSC Members Bahan, Jungwirth and Thomas were up for reappointment.

PSC Member Knickle thanked LeeTran for installing a bench and trash can at the stop in front of Estero Cove.

Chair Thomas noted she was looking forward to Margaritaville and bicycle test sites. She wondered why the Sheriff's trailer was located where it was. She thought it would be better if the trailer was closer to the beach and all the activity. PSC Member Knickle agreed that it was not accessible to pedestrians. Chair Thomas suggested that the lot next to the Salty Crab would be perfect and closer to the beach. PSC Member Knickle added that the trailer was more of an information center than a public safety place. Chair Thomas will bring the issue up at a Town Council meeting. PSC Member Bougoulas liked where it was because people were aware of its presence.

PSC Member Bougoulas questioned what was next regarding the test bike lane. Chair Thomas replied that she would contact Lee County concerning their next steps.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

John R. King thanked the PSC for their work. He indicated he met with Sheriff Marceno concerning community policing and noted that federal grants were available to help fund the program. The sheriff was on board. Mr. King brought up the homeless population with the sheriff who supported helping those who wanted help.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA - October 18, 2022

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Blanchette moved to adjourn; second by PSC Member Knickle.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

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

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