

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Fleming. Members present: Chair Fleming, John Goggin, Tom Gressman, Joe LaDuca and Ed Scott.

Absent: Pete Crumpacker

Staff: Chelsea O'Riley

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 10, 2018

MOTION: Mr. Gressman moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. LaDuca.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Moyer asked who was reporting burnt out light bulbs, noted that requiring headlights on bicycles during the day was not necessary, trash cans were a safety issue in the bicycle lane and the Holiday Court Motel allowed vehicles to block the bicycle lane.

Chair Fleming noted that the PSC used to be responsible for reporting burnt out lights. Public Works Manager Chelsea O'Riley stated that the Beach and Street Enforcement (BASE) inspected the lights on the first Saturday of every month and they reported them to FP&L. She noted that the blue lights from the Lani Kai to Times Square on the beach side were owned by the Town. Crosswalk sign lights on Estero Blvd. were the responsibility of the County. Chair Fleming noted one was missing at the bike shop on Mango St. Ms. O'Riley will report it. She indicated that they were continuing to make improvements from the hurricane damage.

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARDS ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Public Works Manager O'Riley stated that the new Ordinance provided direction for each committee, noting that three unexcused absences throughout a term would be grounds for dismissal. Chair Fleming questioned when they had to give notice of an absence. Ms. O'Riley replied that the issue had to be clarified by Council but they could set their own policy. Chair Fleming indicated that an excused absence would be when the person informed someone that they would miss the meeting. Not contacting anyone prior to the meeting would be an unexcused absence. He stated that the policy needed to be clarified for all committees. Ms. O'Riley replied

that Council would address the issue after their break. PSC Member Scott suggested adding an agenda item to discuss the policy at their next meeting. Ms. O'Riley will attempt to contact PSC Member Crumpacker regarding his two absences. PSC Member Gressman noted that his neighbor was interested in filling the vacancy on the PSC.

VI. LIGHTNING STUDY UPDATE

PSC Member LaDuca shared videos regarding walking at night and lighting issues at the crosswalks. He noted that some of the crosswalks were hard to see and he asked whether they could have lights shining toward the bay. PSC Member Gressman described lights in the streets at crosswalks in Naples. PSC Member Goggin noted that the County was opposed to those lights. PSC Member LaDuca noted that maintaining the crosswalks with reflective paint would help in low light conditions.

Ms. O'Riley described the recent lighting study by the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). An assessment of Estero Blvd. and the beach side had been completed and she will share the results of their analysis with PSC. She noted that Bonita Beach had crosswalks that lit up under the pavement. PSC Member LaDuca noted that the area between Times Square and the Lani Kai should be a pedestrian zone and he felt it should be 15 mph in that area. PSC Member Goggin asked to have access to the survey.

VII. BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN – Handrails, Directional Signals, etc.

PSC Member LaDuca questioned what would happen with the sidewalks on Crescent as a result of the TPI development. Town Manager Hernstadt responded that pedestrian and bicycle traffic may need to be rerouted but nothing was certain until TPI revealed their final plan. Chair Fleming questioned whether a sidewalk would be constructed on the south side of Crescent. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that it was a Town issue and the area was being studied by FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) for traffic, pedestrian and bicycle circulation and movement. He described their recent presentation to Council. Discussion ensued regarding the blind spot at the crosswalk on Crescent and Estero and other projects in the works and how to prioritize. Town Manager Hernstadt commented that the MPO was the driving force. He noted that there were two landscaping elements: one along Estero Blvd. and one for the base of the bridge. He indicated that they were at the beginning of the project but ideas and concerns needed to be addressed in advance. Town Manager Hernstadt noted that it would take time to modify people's behavior to cross at crosswalks.

PSC Member Goggin questioned whether it would be feasible for them to recommend an overall safety plan for Bowditch to the bridge. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that the committee's function was to work through ideas and present the best solution for certain issues. He noted that they were starting to put money into the budget to address little projects. He encouraged them to look at the overall system but not to lose track of the little projects that could provide a big benefit. He suggested that they find things that may work and not to be afraid to recommend them. He provided examples of projects that would and would not be easy to undo.

PSC Member LaDuca suggested focusing on one section of the beach at a time. PSC Member Goggin expressed concern about disconnects while working on projects. Town Manager Hernstadt stated that they should review the FDOT presentation and the Estero project to determine priorities regarding decision points. PSC Member Gressman questioned why the sidewalks were

wide on both sides of Estero from the foot of the bridge to Lover's Lane but there was not a bicycle lane. Town Manager Hernstadt responded that he was not involved in the project and he did not know how they reached that decision. He stated that the hope was that wider sidewalks would encourage more people to use them.

PSC Member Gressman noted that the trash people could be neater when putting the empty cans back on the street. Discussion ensued regarding Advanced Disposal regarding the trash cans and code enforcement. PSC Member Goggin stated that access from beach to bay was an important project that was backed by Council. PSC Member Scott noted that most of the land involved was owned by the businesses located on Crescent.

Public Works Manager O'Riley indicated that the crosswalk at Fifth St. and Crescent would be repainted. Third St. was one way but it was not marked properly for traffic under the bridge. She stated that those two endeavors were examples of small but important projects. Ms. O'Riley noted that Council approved \$50,000.00 for sidewalk improvements every year. Her concern was the pavers on the thoroughfare from Lani Kai to Times Square on the beach side. Pavers were being replaced due to drilling for communication lines. She felt that Crescent St. was the second priority. She suggested that they read the Needs and Recommendations Technical Memoranda in Appendix E of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to determine their plan of action. She highlighted crosswalks at Palm and Delmar. PSC Member LaDuca questioned whether anyone would take their input. Ms. O'Riley replied that the Town was asked for input when they received the 90% plans. She noted that the Lenell intersection was a high priority. Ms. O'Riley will notify the PSC when she receives information from the County.

PSC Member Goggin questioned the criteria for determining where to install traffic lights. Ms. O'Riley replied that the engineering firm provided recommendations based on multiple aspects.

Ms. O'Riley referred to Appendix F for recommendations concerning various intersections. PSC Member Goggin suggested mapping sidewalks, advisory shoulders and crossing improvements to the recommendations, map them on the technical design and then make final recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding recommendations in the plan, work on observable issues that were not in the study and feed them into the FDOT study.

VIII. MEMBER'S ITEMS – see above.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Moyer suggested a motion regarding Crescent St. He stated that he rode his bicycle the wrong way on Estero due to the rough bricks in Town Square. It was not only a safety issue, but it was an unpleasant riding experience. He appreciated PSC for working on issues.

X. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – July 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Add Appendix F, FDOT Study, Downtown area, Crescent St. and sidewalks. Consensus was reached to include specific items from Appendix F. Ms. O'Riley will provide a discussion document for the pavers between the Lani Kai and Times Square on the beach side. She questioned why they needed a punch list from the County. Mr. Goggin replied that Mr. Butcher recommended that they request one to help them determine what might be lacking, such as signage.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: PSC Member Scott moved to adjourn the meeting; second by PSC Member Gressman.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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

Vote: _____ Signature: _____



- End of document