

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

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chair Goggin. Members present: Pete Crumpacker, John Goggin, Tom Gressman and Ed Scott. (Ron Fleming indicated he would attend, but did not.)
Excused: Joe LaDuca
Staff: Chelsea O'Riley

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 18, 2018

MOTION: Mr. Crumpacker moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. Gressman.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. HIGH DENSITY PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC AREAS

Chair Goggin requested permission to schedule a meeting with the Town Attorney regarding his opinion on rationale for high-density areas. He noted that bicycle racks were required in Section 15 (k) under Section 97-05 and once they settled on a definition of high-density, they will discuss where to place bike racks. Manager O'Riley replied that there were racks on Old San Carlos but people may not recognize them as bicycle racks. She noted that their intent was to install new racks at all beach accesses. She commented that she would share her beach access inventory list with members. Permission was granted to Chair Goggin to meet with the attorney. Manager O'Riley suggested that they bring up the topic at their joint meeting with Town Council on March 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. for Council's input.

VI. BICYCLE & VEHICLE SAFETY ORDINANCE REVIEW

Chair Goggin discovered that Canada does not have a federal law requiring lights on vehicles during the day. He found many studies that went both ways regarding public safety. He questioned whether they wanted to go further with daytime lights. Consensus was reached not to take further action. Mr. Scott confirmed that the Ordinance required daytime lights. Manager O'Riley stated that bicycle shops would receive a letter within the next week. Mr. Gressman verified that all bicycle shops would be required to install lights and audible devices. Mr. Crumpacker questioned enforcement. Chair Goggin read the penalties stated in the Ordinance. Manager O'Riley

distributed Mr. Gressman's report regarding his visit to four bicycle shops. Chair Goggin noted that the report stated that bicycle renters were responsible for providing lights. He questioned what code enforcement was going to do to enforce it. Manager O'Riley replied that they were sending a notice to the shops regarding a final warning to comply with the Ordinance. Mr. Gressman questioned how many people would purchase a light for daytime rentals. He felt the bicycle companies should be required to install lights and horns. Manager O'Riley indicated that they could not tell companies how to run their businesses, but they could educate, inform and enforce what was adopted by Town Council, which would be pursued by code enforcement. She will provide an update at their next meeting. Chair Goggin questioned whether they could require rental companies to sign a document stating that they read the safety rules in the Ordinance. Manager O'Riley will speak with the Community Development Director. Chair Goggin noted that the PSC would provide a recommendation if needed. Mr. Crumpacker suggested linking it with the jaywalking law.

Chair Goggin indicated that he will discuss Ordinance 97-05 with the attorney to determine whether bicycles should be allowed to travel at 15 mph on sidewalks in today's environment. He mentioned that Ordinance 18-13 superseded most of Ordinance 97-05.

VII. CROSSWALKS

Chair Goggin stated that they should review the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Report that discussed crosswalk design and location, etc. He suggested they dedicate part of next month's meeting to decide where crosswalks should be located, type of markings, lighting, refuge areas and timed lighting. Mr. Crumpacker questioned whether FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) would be involved. Chair Goggin replied that they met with Vice Mayor Shamp, Lee County and businesses in the area regarding their design. Members agreed that the PSC should be involved in those discussions in the future. Mr. Gressman questioned whether the sidewalk from Times Square to the Lani Kai was completed. Manager O'Riley replied that repairs were made but the Town decided to wait until after season to replace the sidewalk. Chair Goggin discussed safety issues surrounding crosswalks.

Manager O'Riley stated that Council wanted to install trolley shelters and she will provide options at the next PSC meeting.

Mr. Scott discussed locating crosswalks across from beach accesses and in the middle of the block at the long stretch of residential properties and condominiums on Estero Blvd. Chair Goggin suggested focusing on crosswalk locations and lighting for their next meeting. Mr. Gressman noted that they needed interaction with Lee County due to the inconsistencies on Estero Blvd. Chair Goggin discussed being shut out of meetings. Manager O'Riley indicated that due to the staff change at Bay Oaks, she was meeting with Cultural Resources Director Alison Giesen to assist with current projects. She was not sure why Council did not involve PSC, but they could address it at the March meeting or during Public Comment at a regular Council meeting. Chair Goggin felt it was inappropriate to bring it up during Public Comment. He will provide an update at Council's next meeting. He questioned whether he could meet with Council Member Butcher without violating Sunshine Laws. Manager O'Riley will check with the Town Attorney.

Mr. Scott reported that a streetlight was out at Matanzas Court. Manager O'Riley stated that a bulb had been ordered and BASE staff inspected Estero Blvd. once a month. Mr. Gressman verified that they should email crosswalk ideas to Manager O'Riley for distribution.

VIII. LANDSCAPING/PHYSICAL BARRIERS

Chair Goggin suggested tying the discussion to crosswalk design. He indicated that he will contact LPA Chair Heil to discuss restrictions in the code concerning landscaping around sidewalks.

IX. BICYCLE LIGHTING

Manager O'Riley stated that she was still waiting for the final study to be released.

X. MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Scott – encountered several bicycles traveling the wrong way in the area of Old San Carlos and Crescent St. He questioned whether they could install a bicycle lane. Manager O'Riley reported that the Tetra-Tech contract to design sidewalks would be in front of Town Council at their next meeting for approval. She noted that if the contract was approved, she will share preliminary designs with PSC. She stated that the placement of sidewalks depended on the location of storm and water lines. Chair Goggin suggested that they be involved in discussions regarding sidewalks and the placement of crosswalks. Manager O'Riley stated that all input was appreciated. Chair Goggin discussed coordination between the design team and Tetra-Tech. Mr. Scott suggested marking the street for bicycles on North Estero Blvd. so they knew which direction to ride.

Mr. Gressman – the signs prohibiting bicycles in Times Square were too high for bicycles to read. He suggested they install more visible signs lower to the ground. Manager O'Riley remarked that they were looking into painting the pavement.

Mr. Crumpacker – looked forward to making recommendations on crosswalks and moving pedestrians and bicyclists and he agreed it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference. He noted they had to educate people regarding rules for crossing the road.

Chair Goggin – will provide an update at the next Council meeting. He discussed the difficulty of locating visitor information on the website and the safety brochure was buried. He questioned the status of the Town's webpage. Manager O'Riley will find out. He questioned whether the brochure could be prominently displayed and whether the brochure could be put into a web format. He questioned whether the committee was interesting in contacting the Chamber of Commerce to upload the brochure on their website. Manager O'Riley replied that they could update the brochure on the Town's website. Chair Goggin encouraged members to submit suggestions or comments to Manager O'Riley regarding the brochure.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Moyer appreciated the discussion. He noted that the Town was not enforcing the bicycle lights or electric bicycles yet. He questioned whether they had control over Matanzas Bridge and described bicyclists riding at a high speed on the sidewalk. He thanked members for their work.

XII. SET NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Update on meeting with Town Attorney regarding high-density; ADA compliance; Ordinance 97-05; update on meeting with LPA Chair Heil; review safety brochure and create a mock up and

crosswalk placement, design, lighting, structures, signage and markings. He will request that PSC be included in discussions concerning designs at the next Council meeting. Manager O'Riley added lighting study update. Mr. Crumpacker suggested adding jaywalking. Chair Goggin will add jaywalking to his discussion with the Town Attorney.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Scott moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Gressman.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Adopted 2-19-18 with/without changes. Motion by _____
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature:  _____

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