

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goggin. Members present: Ron Fleming, John Goggin, Tom Gressman, (arrived at 9:10) Joe LaDuca and Ed Scott.

Excused: Pete Crumpacker

Staff: Chelsea O'Riley

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 15, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Fleming moved to approve the minutes; second by Mr. Scott.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Phillips, resident and President of the Gulf View Colony Homeowner's Association, attended to find more information regarding the crosswalk policy. They have tried to get a crosswalk near their property for years and have been denied due to the curve in the road. He stated that a crosswalk was put in at Lover's Lane although it was on the same curve. He indicated that the nearest crosswalk was at Red Coconut, which was 500 feet away and the nearest public beach access was number 23. Mr. Phillips noted that he contacted Lee County but did not get a reply and he was not satisfied with the response by Kay Molnar. He discussed the lack of a sight line when vehicles parked next to their drive.

Mr. Fleming discussed having representatives from different government entities attend PSC meetings. Chair Goggin explained that the goal was to meet with representatives and draft a report of the recommendations for crosswalks to present to Council. Mr. LaDuca suggested that they find out whether the County would deviate from their plans in the event more crosswalks were needed. Chair Goggin replied that the County will hear their recommendations and decide whether to take action.

V. HIGH DENSITY PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC AREAS

Chair Goggin distributed the report he presented to Council. He noted that they were waiting to get confirmation for a meeting with the Town Attorney and Town Manager regarding high density areas. He questioned the status of the letters sent to the bicycle rental companies. Manager

O'Riley will provide an update at the next meeting. He stated that he will continue to bring up the items on the list with Council until they received answers.

VI. SAFETY BROCHURE

Manager O'Riley distributed comments regarding the brochure. Mr. Gressman thought it was great and questioned the coverage. Chair Goggin noted that CRAB (Community Resource Advisory Board) received approval to go forward with a smart app. He suggested meeting with CRAB to review their content and incorporate the information into the application.

Mr. Scott questioned having lights on after dark versus having them on all the time. Mr. Fleming questioned whether they should include the free tram service. Chair Goggin agreed that it was a good idea for the app. Mr. LaDuca discussed the placement of crosswalks. Chair Goggin mentioned that the lightning detection section should be expanded, traffic should be highlighted instead of driving on the beach, multiple distractions should include why, rights-of-way explained, add the park once concept, add how to find parking, pedestrians should use sidewalks, wear bright clothes and carry a light when walking at night, ride with traffic and add slow when passing even with audible devices. Mr. Fleming suggested adding riding bicycles on the beach. Manager O'Riley questioned whether they wanted to add a sub-section. Chair Goggin suggested waiting until the content was completed to determine whether to add one.

Mr. Scott suggested getting the brochures to individual homeowners who rented. Manager O'Riley noted that the Town was required to send out letters for CRS compliance and she indicated that PSC could include information regarding pedestrian concerns with that mailing. Mr. LaDuca suggested posting the brochure in Times Square and at trolley stops. Manager O'Riley will compile comments by the next meeting.

VII. LIGHTING STUDY

Manager O'Riley did not have the final study. She noted that FP&L was replacing non-compliant turtle light fixtures. Discussion was held regarding LED lights.

VIII. CROSSWALKS

Chair Goggin noted that Ms. O'Riley provided an outline to start the discussion and members could add comments along the way. Consensus was reached to add crosswalks at public and private beach accesses. Discussion was held regarding private beach accesses and the flow of pedestrian traffic. Mr. LaDuca suggested measuring out current beach accesses to determine the best placement. Chair Goggin agreed.

Chair Goggin stated that businesses should have access to crosswalks and he questioned spacing issues. Mr. LaDuca questioned whether it was feasible to have crosswalks every 20 or 30 yards. Chair Goggin felt that people might ignore them but he noted that they could check with staff at the County regarding past crosswalk studies. Mr. Fleming reiterated having County representatives attend their meetings. Manager O'Riley discussed the big picture and she was hesitant with gearing crosswalks towards retail businesses due to potential zoning changes. Chair Goggin stated that it could be a part of the overall criteria and he suggested looking at retail establishments to determine whether crosswalks were needed. Manager O'Riley noted that she provided a list of beach accesses.

Mr. LaDuca discussed adding crosswalks to each side of the street at “T” intersections. Chair Goggin brought up crosswalks for trolley stops. Manager O’Riley stated that the County recommended crosswalks at trolley stops if space was available. She indicated that she would print out a map of the Island for the next meeting. Chair Goggin requested that certain representatives attend the next meeting. Manager O’Riley will coordinate with Lee County and the Town. Mr. Gressman suggested adding crosswalks to high occupancy locations such as hotels and condominiums. Mr. LaDuca discussed the need for a consistent measurement between crosswalks.

Amenities included benches at all trolley stops, shelters in high-traffic trolley stops, possible shading with trees and landscaping, trolley schedule and rates, a link to the LeeTran schedule, adding the smart app to shelter areas, trash cans and access to water. Discussion was held regarding adding bike racks. Mr. LaDuca mentioned adding bike racks in front of the Beached Whale.

Chair Goggin discussed lighting requirements at crosswalks, especially in areas similar to Lenell Rd. Mr. LaDuca felt that the crosswalk marking should be wider and Mr. Gressman questioned why there was not a lighted crosswalk at Lenell. He felt the pedestrian refuges were dangerous for bicyclists. Chair Goggin commented that they would have to produce alternatives such as better lighting. He suggested replacing refuges with red flashing lights and he suggested that they review the Master Plan for design ideas before the next meeting.

IX. LANDSCAPING/PHYSICAL BARRIERS

Directional signage included low, prickly, zero maintenance vegetation. Chair Goggin suggested painting a red line above the curb with information regarding the nearest crosswalk and marking the bike lane with bright colored striping.

Chair Goggin questioned whether they wanted to meet with Lee County representatives before their joint meeting with Council on March 21, 2019. He preferred to meet with Lee County before Council. Manager O’Riley will follow up with the County concerning dates and switching their joint meeting with Council. Mr. Scott felt that meeting with Council first would give them more leverage with the County. Chair Goggin responded that they were an advisory committee and they should present solid advice to Council. Consensus was reached to meet with the County first.

Chair Goggin noted that Council did agree that the PSC should be involved with the five RFPs but he has not heard anything. He questioned whether they could request markings on Connecticut to indicate that the sidewalk ended. Manager O’Riley will follow up.

X. MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Gressman stated that the lack of the sidewalk to the Mound House had to be addressed. He mentioned a bicycle boulevard.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

XII. SET NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA

Attorney, RFPs and safety brochure. The date for the next meeting will be determined based on the availability of Town and County representatives.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Adopted 4/23/19 with/without changes. Motion by Ed Scott / Tom G
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

- End of document