

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Town Hall - Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Butcher. Members present: Bruce Butcher, Al Durrett, Ron Fleming, Tony Scopel, Bill Veach, and Jim Wray.

Excused: Tom Myers

Town Liaison: Tildon Copeland

Council Liaison: Rexann Hosafros

Lee County DOT: Robert Phelan

Lee County Sheriff's Office: Ed Sommers

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - Vote Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Butcher welcomed new members Ron Fleming and Bill Veach.

MOTION: Mr. Durrett moved to reappoint Bruce Butcher as Chair; second by Mr. Scopel.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Wray revealed that he would be stepping down as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Scopel moved to nominate Mr. Durrett as Vice Chair; Mr. Durrett declined the nomination.

MOTION: Mr. Durrett moved to nominate Mr. Veach as Vice Chair; second by Mr. Scopel.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of October 8, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Scopel moved to approve the minutes; second by Chair Butcher.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Milevy, interim program manager for the Fort Myers Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, discussed the history and purpose of the program. He agreed to distribute brochures at events.

VI. LIGHTING FOR ESTERO BLVD.

Chair Butcher summarized the meeting with representatives from Florida Power and Light. He stated they have a standard package of lights, but they did not provide lighting options for the beach. Chair Butcher pointed out that the consensus from the meeting was to hire a lighting consultant. Council Liaison Hosafros indicated that FPL's technology was lacking, but purchasing lights separately would not be cost effective. She noted that supplemental lighting, in addition to the standard package, might be feasible. Mr. Phelan discussed the lighting timeline. Mr. Veach suggested research into the viability of solar power at certain sites.

MOTION: Mr. Durrett moved to recommend that Town Council do a study of lighting for the best practices of lighting Estero Blvd. for the future, also to research creating a special taxing district to pay for the lighting as soon as possible; second by Mr. Scopel.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VII. LIGHTNING WARNING SYSTEM - BAY OAKS RECREATION CENTER

Council Liaison Hosafros indicated that the lightning warning system was sent to Council for further discussion.

VIII. EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN - FLOW CHARTS

Council Liaison Hosafros reviewed the executive summary draft.

IX. STAFF REPORT

A. Information on Traffic Laws (question/answer)

Mr. Copeland introduced Ed Sommers for clarification on passing trolleys. Mr. Sommers stated that the center lane was not a passing lane. If a trolley pulled off out of the traffic lane, it would be legal for vehicles to pass as long as there was a broken yellow line and it was safe to do so. Council Liaison Hosafros noted that information concerning passing trolleys in the brochure was incorrect, despite working with the sheriff's department for content. Chair Butcher read state statute 316.0875 on passing vehicles in a no-passing zone. Discussion was held concerning contradictions and communication. Mr. Sommers stated that he would attend the next PSC meeting with clarification. Council Liaison Hosafros suggested deleting trolley passing information from the brochure. Chair Butcher questioned the lack of penalties for drivers who cause injury to pedestrians. Mr. Sommers discussed state law. Mr. Durrett invited Mr. Sommers or another representative to attend each PSC meeting.

B. Trolley Pull off and Crosswalk at Lahaina Inn Resort Delete from agenda.

C. Estero Blvd. Updates

Mr. Phelan indicated that he had a draft set of 60% plans for review. He stated they were working with the utilities on their relocation plans. Discussion was held concerning allowing construction 24/7.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVERTISEMENT

A. Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) Language in Brochure

Discussion was held concerning all language in the brochure, which sections to change or delete, printing in different languages, and distribution locations. Mr. Copeland noted that any changes to the brochure should be sent to him. Council Liaison Hosafros suggested that Mr. Scopel work with Ms. O'Riley to revise the brochure. Mr. Scopel agreed. Chair Butcher stated that "Be Seen" was the most important portion of the brochure.

B. Signs at Bridges - Pedestrian Awareness

Mr. Copeland shared pictures of signs from the north and south bridges. Discussion was held concerning safety and information signs, too many signs, an LED billboard, and the banner across the bridge. Chair Butcher recommended tabling the issue.

Mr. Copeland indicated that production of the mesh banner was in progress and he would update committee members via email.

Discussion was held regarding elevated bike paths for the south end of the island.

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Liaison Hosafros suggested that members check Estero Blvd. for light outages and report them to Mr. Copeland so he could forward the information to FP&L. Chair Butcher remarked that FP&L needed the street light number from the post or the proximity of the pole to a cross street. Members volunteered to monitor street lights on Estero Blvd.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Durrett moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Scopel.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Adopted 12-10-14 with/without changes. Motion by Ron Fleaming
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: 

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