



Fort Myers Beach Management & Planning Session

**Town Hall Council Chambers
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Minutes**Thursday, March 7, 2024****11:30 AM**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FINAL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Town Council Members present: Mayor Allers, Vice Mayor Atterholt, Council Member King, Council Member Safford and Council Member Woodson.
PSC Members present: Chair Thomas, PSC Member Blanchette, PSC Member Benak, PSC Member Jungwirth and PSC Member Knickle.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Public Safety Committee

Discussion on Public Safety Committee Priorities and Projects Chair Thomas stated that the committee was looking for direction and guidance. PSC Member Knickle reported that representatives from the sheriff's office and the fire department provided monthly updates to keep the committee apprised of public safety issues. Vice Mayor Atterholt listed topics that the committee could be involved with. Mayor Allers felt that direct communication with Community Services (formerly Beach and Street Enforcement - B.A.S.E.) would benefit the community. He suggested that the PSC revisit activities they had worked on before Ian, such as crosswalks and sidewalks. Chair Thomas noted the PSC did not get enough information regarding topics like unsafe buildings, so they were unsure what to discuss. Mayor Allers indicated that sometimes issues were corrected quickly. Chair Thomas commented that some topics the PSC discussed had already been solved, but they did not find out until later.

Town Manager Hyatt stated that since the hurricane, items have been taken care of as soon as possible and there were many moving parts. He explained the signage delay and noted they continued to work with the county.

He added that Tom Yozzo would attend the PSC meetings and keep him in the loop. Chair Thomas commented that the sign situation was a good example of something that would have been good to know so that the PSC could concentrate on something else.

Mayor Allers noted that the PSC had been researching ways for Community Services to have radios with a direct line with the sheriff's department.

Operations and Compliance Director Frankie Kropocek stated that radios were on order and a dedicated channel with Lee County had been implemented. He explained how B.A.S.E. has been restructured and indicated the town had record parking revenues and no complaints over the last four months. He noted that the town could not enforce anything on Estero Blvd., but they could educate people.

Manager Tom Yozzo reviewed his background in security and the town's vision. He explained how he educated people who were involved in unsafe activities. He felt that neighborhood watches would work well in the town. Chair Thomas responded that the PSC had a neighborhood watch set up before Ian, which could be resurrected.

Chair Thomas suggested researching a golf cart lane starting at Beach Baptist and winding through neighborhoods ending near Sandy Bottoms. Mayor Allers responded that the route was mapped out for bicycles before the hurricane and would work for golf carts. Council Member King cautioned that residents in those neighborhoods had recently complained about increased car traffic. PSC Member Knickle mentioned developing a seasonal traffic flow to help traffic move better. Mayor Allers stated that the traffic dynamics would change once the roundabout was complete. Council Member King offered to invite FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) for a presentation to the PSC.

Vice Mayor Atterholt felt it would be interesting to see where and if crimes occur every month. PSC Member Blanchette noted that before the hurricane, the LCSO's (Lee County Sheriff's Office) website used to have the location of crimes identified on an interactive map. PSC Member Benak felt that there was a lack of education for visitors and that communication with the new PIO (Public Information Officer) would be helpful.

Council Member Safford asked the PSC to investigate the pedestrian choke point between Avenue E and Margaritaville. PSC Member Jungwirth replied that they did and there were too many driveways to do anything. Director Kropocek described different barriers to direct pedestrians down a specific path, but without signage, education and enforcement, people would walk where they wanted to. Vice Mayor Atterholt added that the state opposed pedestrian guardrails. Director Kropocek stated the town had to develop options for a viable solution.

Manager Yozzo revealed that adhesive barriers to guide pedestrians were just installed at the intersection of 5th St. and San Carlos.

PSC Member Jungwirth felt they had direction now and Director Kropocek encouraged the PSC to contact him anytime.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member King moved to adjourn; seconded by Council Member Safford. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes adopted as presented, March 18, 2024. Motion by Council Member King and seconded by Council Member Allers. Passed 5-0.



Amy Baker, Town Clerk