

Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board

Wednesday April 10th 2019, 5:00 pm

City of Bonita Springs

Liles Hotel 27300 Old 41 Road Upstairs Conference Room

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:11 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present

Lindsay Robin

Scott Schnappauf

Sarah Baker

Joe McClamma

Staff

Sean Gibbons

Guest

Dr. Richard Check

III. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

A. 2-21-19 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Robin made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Baker seconded; motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Ms. Baker introduced Dr. Richard Check, Chairman from the Bonita Beach Association. Dr. Check explained this Association represents 350 plus dues paying members, 1400 doors, on Little Hickory Island. Dr. Check explained that the association has been in place since 1952.

Dr. Check addressed the Board about the problem of pedestrians crossing Hickory Boulevard.

Highlights include:

- Hickory Boulevard has 10 beach accesses.
- There are two crosswalks between access number 1 and 5, which are a mile apart.
- All 10 accesses lead to the beach.
- Access 7 and 8 have crosswalks, the next crosswalk is at Access 10

Dr. Check explained the issue is people cannot get across Hickory Boulevard safely. Dr. Check stated that Lee County Department of Transportation violates Florida Statute 316.13, the

pedestrian rule statute. The other issue is that they have one sidewalk on the bay side of Little Hickory Boulevard, this statute says if there is a sidewalk, the pedestrian must walk across the street to use the sidewalk. What we have is in violation in the statute.

Dr. Check stated the other issue is there are bus stops at 8 of the accesses. The Lee Tran website states that Access 6 is closest to the beach, but Access 6 does not have a crosswalk. It hampers the use of the bus.

Dr. Check has written to Commissioner Kiker and met with representatives at the Lee County Department of Transportation. They understand the situation, but do not have the money for this project at this time. Dr. Check stated their final word was if the Association finds the money, they would do the project. Dr. Check is meeting with Mr. Jensen tomorrow to see how much it will cost, and then he is going to address City Council.

Mr. Checks said he would like Board to discuss this, and advise the City and if the Board has any questions, please let him know. Dr. Check needs to go to City Council this month.

Ms. Baker said would discuss and vote on it tonight.

Ms. Robin asked if their solution was crosswalks, or are they open to other solutions, like traffic calming solutions. Dr. Check said they are open to any solutions. Ms. Robin said she would like to look into other beach jurisdictions in the country, not necessarily in Florida, where this issue has been addressed.

Ms. Baker thanked Dr. Check for all his hard work.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Safety/Network/Areas of Concern

Mr. Gibbons reminded to committee members to reach out to the appropriate maintenance entities for any issues, hazards or roadway repairs that they come across in their travels

Mr. Gibbons noted he has the identification map showing which entity is responsible for maintaining which roads (local, private, county and state), which is publically available on the County DOT website.

B. City/BPSAC Webpage Update(s)

Mr. Gibbons spoke to Ms. Taylor regarding the new City website. They are in the process of updating City home page first. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board page is in the queue. The Board will have its own page where they can put flyers, links, round-a-bout info, videos, and any other related material.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Projects in the Works & Code Updates

Mr. Gibbons reported the YMCA pathway and corresponding site improvements are under review.

Mr. Gibbons reported they are fixing some glitches they found in their complete streets material.

B. MPO/BWL: School District Town Hall Meeting

Mr. Gibbons reported that school safety would be discussed at a Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the School District boardroom offices located at 2855 Colonial Blvd.

C. Outreach & Education

Mr. Gibbons asked the Board to let him know if they have any ideas of co-events where the Board could participate. Mr. Gibbons stated they have a ton of resources to give out. Mr. Gibbons asked the Board to start to plan and think through what their next small projects could potentially be.

D. We're Going to Miss You Sarah!

Ms. Baker announced that this evening is her last meeting. Mr. Gibbons asked if any member would be interested in being the Chair. Ms. Robins said she would be interested.

Ms. Baker moved for Ms. Robin to be elected as Chair of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board effective April 11, 2019, Mr. McClamma seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Baker said it has been an honor and pleasure working with the Board.

The Board expressed how much they have appreciated Ms. Baker as Chair and wished her well in medical school.

VII. ANY MEMBER ITEMS TO DISCUSS:

The Board discussed Mr. Check's request to approach Council regarding the people who live on Hickory Island and their request for crosswalks at each access point. Highlights:

- Ms. Baker felt she could get behind a motion agreeing to support the Association and collaborate with them to look at all the variables that would improve the safety and access for the individuals on Hickory Island
- Man speaking asked if the existing crosswalks meet current standards and guidelines.
- Ms. Robin had concerns that Hickory Boulevard is not a City Road and the Board has the same concerns with City owned roads, such as Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Mr. Gibbons stated this is part of a larger discussion regarding Bicycle/Pedestrian access to the beach.

Mr. Gibbons summarized the Board would offer support for the concept idea, but suggested the Association talk to their Council members to go forward with their petition. Ms. Baker stated

there are priorities that the Board has identified for Bonita Springs and, as a part of that, the Board can support the Association.

Mr. Schnappauf made the motion that the Board provide support to any area and any neighborhood of the City of Bonita Springs that sees unsafe conditions for bicyclist and pedestrians including the residents, visitors and community members who utilize the Hickory Island facilities, Ms. Robin seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE (May 8th, 2019)

Next meeting established for May 8, 2019.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Baker made a motion to adjourn at 6:22 p.m., Mr. McClamma seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Nadine Chiamonte, Office Assistant

Minutes approved at the 6/12/19 Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board Meeting:

Mr. Schnappauf moved to approve the minutes of April 10, 2019, Ms. Robin seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Any person requiring special accommodations at any of the meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact Meg Weiss, Director of Administrative Services, at 239-949-6262, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

If a person decides to appeal a decision made by the Council in any matter considered at this meeting/hearing, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, to include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.