

SANDESTIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Operations Committee Meeting Notes

July 7, 2020

Members Present: Ken Lloyd, Chair, Bette Nelson, Ray Agnor*, Bob Jack*, Connie Yarbro*, Rick Davis*, Brian Hemard*, Ralph Carroll*, Ken Catrino, Susan Sause*, Jennifer Crawford*, Hollis Risley, Jason Draughn, Gerry DiNardo
(*present via web conference "Zoom")

SOA Staff Present: Tom Cooper, Executive Director, Jimmy Willis, Director of Security, Kylie Wilson, Executive Assistant

May Meeting Notes - Notes were reviewed with no corrections needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Crosswalk Safety Progress

Jimmy Willis advised this project was approved at the May 28 Board of Directors Meeting and is now underway. Crews will begin with the bridge portion of the project. This relocation of the crosswalk located adjacent to the Phil Hummel Aquatics Center on Baytowne Ave to the north by the entry to Bay Pines is expected to take about 60 days, weather permitting. There should be minimal interruptions in traffic patterns; however, we ask that you use caution while construction material and equipment will be in the area.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Update

Jimmy Willis advised the members that the short-term solutions identified in Task 1 are in the works. Signs and thermoplastic are on order and are expected to arrive within a few weeks once received staff will begin installation.

Ken Lloyd stated the draft of long-term solutions has been received from Kimley Horn. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety sub-committee reviewed the report and felt that it does not meet their expectation. Meetings are scheduled with Kimley Horn to further express their discontent with the report and determine a way to resolve the issues within the document.

NEW BUSINESS

Jason Draughn – Safety Issues

Jimmy Willis advised the members that Jason Draughn, SDI Activities Director, was in attendance and requested to discuss safety issues with the committee. Jason Draughn presented a photo taken this morning of tents that were abandoned on the beach. He states there is an increasing number of these 10'x10' tents being brought to the Sandestin beach. This increase is due to neighboring beach properties that have begun banning them on their beaches. With the current social distancing measures in place, these tents are taking up an abundance of the already limited beach space available. He noted the footprint of beach chairs with umbrellas is much smaller. Whereas the 10'x10' tents are utilized by an average of two people and are taking up more space than is needed. The county currently allows 10'x10' tents to be set up on the back third of the beach. It was noted the county is not picking up items left overnight on the beach; members questioned if this could be due to the current customary use litigation the county is facing. Tom Cooper reminded the members that the SOA does not own any part of the beach. Jason requested the assistance of the SOA to form a new rule banning the use of tents; and help in getting all beach associations on the same page so the rule could be posted consistently at each beach access. A picture of the current signage at the beach access was shown. Jason suggests updating the signs to be consistent with the design used by the county and add the new rule. Tom Cooper states legal council will need to review a draft of the proposed rule change, and then sent to all affected associations for their input. Tom Cooper advised if all associations are in agreement with the proposed change it will then go to the Board of Directors for approval.

Golf Cart Rules Discussion

Jimmy Willis advised that staff are reviewing all policies, rules and regulations this year to see if any changes or updates are needed. Ken Lloyd expressed a need to tighten the rules regarding golf carts due to the many infractions he has witnessed on property and the increasing number of registered carts. Members expressed their concerns regarding golf carts being rented with units and utilized by the short-term renters.

Noting this completely bypasses the rule that only owners may have golf carts. They feel short-term renters are either not informed properly of the rules and expectation of conduct on Sandestin or have a complete disregard for them. Members discussed options to restrict registration of golf carts and ways to more effectively enforce the rules for golf cart operation on Sandestin. Options discussed included: Adjusting the age of allowable drivers, implementing suspension of golf cart usage for habitual offenders, setting insurance limits, requiring a list of authorized drivers at time of registration, pinpointing potentially dangerous areas of the resort to resolve, increasing Security staffing, and reducing concierge services offered by the Security Department to free up officers for additional enforcement. Bette Nelson noted that an unintended consequence of additional restrictions would be an increased amount of automobiles being utilized for travel within the resort. Ken Lloyd feels the current policy in its entirety needs to be overhauled and requests the sub-committee for Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety look into solutions that are reasonable and enforceable and bring them back to the committee for further review. <ACTION>

Bicycle Rules Discussion

Ken Lloyd discussed the arrival of e-bikes on Sandestin. He is suggesting a rule be created to assist in controlling the amount of e-bikes allowed on property and their use. Members discussed the possibility of registering the e-bikes, and requiring a documented medical reason to register. Members also discussed the possibility of allowing all e-bikes but limiting their use to the street only, as it was noted the boost in pedal assistance might be hazardous on sidewalks. Additional discussion included the speeds capable of the different classes of e-bikes and enforcement limitations. Ken Lloyd requests the sub-committee for Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety look into solutions that are reasonable and enforceable and bring them back to the committee for further review. <ACTION>

Mid-Week Safety Tips

A communications sub-committee was formed. Members of sub-committee are Ralph Carroll, Susan Sause, Jennifer Crawford, and Ken Lloyd. Members of this sub-committee will meet with Victoria Klamerus to decide content for a weekly email that will be sent mid-week to the membership that will include safety tips. The goal is to inform the membership of the rules implemented for their safety. This sub-committee will also discuss alternative ways to broaden the outreach to educate owners, guests and resort visitors alike in an effort to communicate the rules more effectively. <ACTION>

CHIEF'S REPORT

Jimmy reviewed the June 2020 Chief's Report.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Ken Lloyd and Hollis Risley informed the members of upcoming projects the Maintenance Committee are undertaking including road paving and installation of bulkhead along lake banks. It is during projects like this that we should push to expand the sidewalks and roads in those areas. Expanding roadways and sidewalks where possible in conjunction with ongoing maintenance projects will assist in our goal to improve the infrastructure and promote alternative modes of transportation within the resort. In addition, plans to add to the pedestrian network by installing a sidewalk along Audubon Drive have been put on hold long enough and should be designed and presented this year.

NEXT MEETING

September 8, 2020 at 1:30pm