

**SANDESTIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Safety and Security Committee**  
**April 9, 2024**  
**Notes**

**Members Present:** Gregg Pierce, Chair, Ray Agnor, Connie Yarbrow, Diane Zierhoffer\*, Ralph Carroll, Mariam Younger, Chris Holder\* (\*Attended via video conference)

**Others Present:** Jimmy Willis, Security Director, Tom Cooper, Executive Director, Aimie Trussell, Exec. Asst., Melissa Cocks\*, Board of Directors President

**Quorum**

Gregg Pierce noted that a quorum was established with 7 of 7 members in attendance.

**Previous Meeting Notes**

Members reviewed the notes from the February 6, 2024 meeting. Tom Cooper noted that Off Agenda item that was discussed last month regarding the request for an owner's son to utilize a scooter would be handled by the SOA staff and it's legal counsel. Ray Agnor made a motion to receive the notes as presented. Mariam Younger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Traffic Concerns**

Members discussed the traffic during Spring Break, noting that it seemed less busy this year and even calmer now. Jimmy confirmed that traffic comparisons during Spring Break should be reviewed based on when Easter falls and what schools/states are in town. Discussion ensued regarding citations and target areas such as Baytowne Ave and Sandestin Blvd due to increased traffic and pedestrians.

Jimmy stated that there was an increase in gate strikes by guests driving golf carts at the East Gate. Signs have been ordered to direct golf carts from the East Gate to the golf cart gate on Administration Drive to alleviate this issue.

Members also discussed the concern of non-decaled vehicles using the Owners Only Lane at the East Gate and the back-up of traffic this causes on the round-about. Mr. Willis shared that he and Kyle Ray, Director of Property Services, were getting quotes to have this lane re-painted to make this clearer, like the North Gate. Members discussed the signage for that lane, noting that most people did not understand the term "remote access" in relation to their decals.

Tom shared that at the March Board of Directors meeting, the East Gate project was approved to change scope by suspending the portion that includes relocating the gate and to move forward with adding lanes from the traffic circle to Hwy 98 to allow 3 exit lanes and an additional entry lane. Gregg shared that this would involve the Howard Group providing land next to Regions Bank but would allow for more cars to "stack up" in lanes. Mr. Cooper stated that the plan is still in a very early stage and would require moving utilities, working with the DOT and, would probably not take place until late next year. Jimmy advised that staff is working on communicating with contractors and employees that, while they are encouraged to enter through the East Gate, they may also use the North Gate.

Members brought up concerns during events, such as the upcoming Wine Festival, regarding parking issues near the Marina and Mike Hayes Blvd, noting that cars often blocked the fire hydrant and parked along the road. Jimmy explained that this is another area that is being considered for painting, being marked as a fire lane. Members discussed property lines, where SOA has authority and what can be done.

**Future Capital Projects**

Jimmy reminded members that Tom had requested suggestions for the Strategic Plan be emailed to him focusing on future Capital projects. Cameras, technology, and increased staff as the community grows have already been submitted for the plan.

Members recommended signage at the tunnel entrance as an option and more signage near PHAC for the pedestrian crossing. An inquiry about utilizing cameras as an enforcement tool led to discussion regarding legal challenges and the roles of the current and future staff. Mr. Willis agreed to send statistics regarding community growth over the past few years, how many RDUs are remaining, and the ratio of Security staff to current units. <ACTION>

### **Signage at Entry Gates**

Jimmy shared that he is researching more permanent, professional LED signs to replace the black and orange digital signs currently in place. Members discussed features such as programmable timing, quick and convenient operations from a computer and ability to utilize the sign for announcements.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Strategic Plan**

Tom Cooper shared that he is still gathering ideas for the 2024 Strategic Plan, reminded members to email him any ideas they may have and encouraged them to think “out of the box”.

#### **Security Uniforms**

Mr. Willis stated that the Board of Directors had approved the uniform presented at the last meeting and shirts have been ordered. In reference to timeline and pricing, he shared that a month or two for the embroidery and that the cost difference would not likely affect this year.

#### **Chief's Report**

Jimmy Willis presented the Lifeguard statistics provided by South Walton Fire District and the security report comparing 2023 to 2024, through March. Members reviewed the statistics noting that the traffic is up 15K from 2023 but calls and citations are down, the desire for more consistency in the citations and a reputation for enforcement was recognized. Tom explained the difficulty with creating a reputation is the high percentage, especially this time of year with transient traffic. Members requested the percentages of who have received citations. <ACTION>

In answer to the question regarding guests and golf cart rules, Jimmy explained that during initial registration of a golf cart, SOA staff places the golf cart rules sticker on the cart to be visible by the driver. Mr. Willis informed the members that those stickers now contain a QR code with the entire Golf Cart Policy and Guidelines available; an email with that sample will be sent. <ACTION>

#### **Member Comments**

Tom Cooper referenced the bill that was being discussed in Tallahassee that would require all HOAs have a third-party provider responsible for citation/violations, stating it had failed and this would not be a concern.

Jimmy reminded members to share any ideas or suggestions for future Capital projects or Strategic planning with him or Tom.

**Next Meeting:** June 11, 1:30 p.m.