

SANDESTIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Safety and Security Committee
October 10, 2023
NOTES

Members Present: Gregg Pierce, Chairman, Ray Agnor*, Connie Yarbro, Diane Zierhoffer, Kohanna Miller, Mike Smith*, Ralph Carroll, and Steven May (* Attended via video conference).

Others Present: Jimmy Willis, Director of Security, Tom Cooper, Executive Director, Melissa Cocks, President of SOA Board, Aimie Trussell, Executive Assistant, and Terry Cost, Director of SOA Board.

Previous Meeting Notes:

Members reviewed the notes from the August 8, 2023 meeting. Diane Zierhoffer noted an extra word in the fifth line, second paragraph under Previous Meeting Notes. Kohanna Miller made a motion to receive the notes with proposed revision. Steven May seconded and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Update on Shooting and Discussion

Gregg Pierce opened by stating that members are looking for a response from the SOA regarding the recent shooting. Melissa Cocks replied that due to this being an ongoing investigation, there is no debrief or statement that can be made.

There was limited further discussion about the event, Security protocol and a potential review of processes that are in place.

In response to member questions, Melissa Cocks clarified that until the investigation is finished and valid facts are received; no further discussion of the actual event can take place. Tom Cooper reiterated that every step the SOA is taking in regards to this matter is under legal counsel at this time.

Golf Cart Rules Update

Jimmy Willis reviewed the proposed revisions to the Golf Cart Policy that will be presented at the October Board of Directors meeting. The first change in Section 2.A. Registration Fees – Effective with the 2024 renewal period, there will be a registration fee of \$100 for each cart registered. Mr. Willis shared the full details of this revision and Melissa Cocks answered member questions clarifying that this update was proposed by the Finance Committee and approved in the budget by the Board of Directors at the September meeting. Tom Cooper addressed the questions regarding why this is not considered part of the assessment paid, clarifying that not all owners have or can have a golf cart based on parking limitations. In addition, this also avoids a higher increase in assessments. The estimated revenue is estimated at \$130K in the 2024 budget.

The language regarding registration for Trusts, Estates and LLCs, and insurance coverage is being revised for clarification and the changes to the fines being issued is based on the new statute that requires a Fine Committee authorize a fine before it can be imposed.

Members discussed the new fine hearing process, the changes in work for staff and volunteers and that the choice is to implement this new process or issue no fines at all. In response to questions about guests or visitors failing to pay a fine, Jimmy Willis explained that the responsibility goes back to the owner in all citations, just like an insurance claim; the owner is liable and responsible for the actions of their guests, visitors and/or renters.

Diana Zierhoffer made a motion to recommend approval of the Golf Cart Policy revisions to the board of Directors. Kohanna Miller seconded the motion and it passed with all voting in favor except Ray Agnor, who opposed.

Sandestin Blvd South Sidewalk

Jimmy Willis presented a request from Terry Cost, Maintenance Committee Chair, regarding access from Hwy. 98 to the south side of the resort be considered. Members discussed that there is a sidewalk in the tunnel but that some walkers are discouraged from using it due to golf carts and the noise. Discussion continued regarding the cost and how much it would be used. Members discussed options for taking a poll to gauge the feedback regarding this request. <ACTION>

Chief's Report

Jimmy Willis reviewed the year-to-date Chief's Report. Members expressed concern for the increase in panhandlers and door-to-door soliciting. Mr. Willis explained that those violators had valid access to be on property due to contracts with other owners but encouraged members to keep reporting these incidents to Security when they occur. Melissa Cocks addressed the concerns for more security by pointing out that this would mean more cameras, more staff and more cost. Tom Cooper pointed out that compared to the overall area, Sandestin crime reports truly are low.

Jimmy confirmed that the new camera system is connected and currently the AI system is "learning" online and expected to be installed by the end of the month.

Member Comments

Members asked for clarification regarding electric scooters versus electric bicycles. Mr. Willis explained that in accordance with the state of Florida, Sandestin recognizes an electric bicycle as a bicycle or tricycle equipped with fully operable pedals, a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, and an electric motor of less than 750 watts and that the vehicle reported on property is an electric scooter. Jimmy stated that a reminder of the rules would be sent to Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort to share with their employees. **<ACTION>**

RRFB Turnberry

Jimmy shared that the RRFB for the Turnberry intersection has been delivered, SOA staff is installing the poles, and the signs should be done tomorrow.

Strategic Plan

Tom Cooper encouraged members to share vision ideas for the next three-year strategic plan, reminding them that these are long term ideas and not daily operational.

Tom Cooper also reminded members that the Committee Thank You Party was scheduled for November 3, 2023, and noted that in addition to needing RSVPs, another clue would be released via email soon.

Next Meeting: November 28, 1:30 p.m.