

DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of Meeting November 9, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Sherman, Chair
Jay Miller, Vice Chair
Laurie Oestreicher, Secretary
Bob Kelley
James Nealis
Michael Weber
Jon Porter

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Molenaar – Assistant County Attorney, Monroe County
Tamara Lamarche - Ex. Asst. for Comm. Rice
Det. Rosary Ponce, Det. Garrett Bragg - MCSO
Judith Clarke – Monroe County, Chief Engineer
Frank Jackson – DKSAB Technical Asst.
Luis Requejo – Ralons Security
Ron Oestreicher - Resident
David Williamson - Resident

ABSENT

Bob Moore – Manager, Hawks Cay Resort
James Yetter, FWC

PROCEEDINGS:

- Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Chair Rick Sherman
- Meeting held via ZOOM
- Date of meeting: November 9, 2021

Rick Sherman welcomed all and noted the meeting was being held via ZOOM.

MOTION: To Approve November 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda.

Motion to approve by Jay Miller; second Jim Nealis

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of September 7, 2021

Motion to approve by Bob Kelley; second by Michael Weber.

MOTION CARRIED

STANDING REPORTS

MCSO – Det. Rosary Ponce is the new Acting Supervisor of Marathon Substation, Sgt. Det. Trevor Wirth has been promoted to Lt. and will be transferring to new position at the Key West Airport with MCSO Security team starting in January. Attending with Det. Rosary Ponce is Det. Garrett Bragg. They reported no major incidents in Duck Key. They did advise all of major scams happening in Monroe County concerning calls from people asking for gift cards for various payments/reasons, they warned all to verify any calls from municipalities and to not give out any personal information during these calls. Also in the past there have been crimes of “opportunity”, so all should keep their homes/vehicles locked and do not leave outside items of value.

Ralons Security – Luis Requejo reported that there was an incident where a resident reported to him that one of the Ralons Guards was speeding during his shift. The incident was looked into and the Guard reprimanded, he has been retrained on the speeding policy, and this should not reoccur. The past two months have been quiet, one minor golf cart incident with a resident driving recklessly, but he was stopped and after a conversation went home. Also there was a report of a loud party, the Guard went to the home and spoke with the occupants and the noise level was lowered.

Hawks Cay Resort – Bob Moore, Manager, Hawks Cay was unable to attend. A comment from Rick Sherman was discussed concerning that with the upcoming holiday’s there will be more guests than usual staying at Hawks Cay, and they may not be aware of the bridge issues on Duck Key. It was decided that they to be made aware that they need to take more care when walking/biking the bridges, and the length of the green light time frame. Jim Nealis offered we should contact Bob Moore and ask that in the in the Hawks Cay “Welcome to Guests” newsletter this information be included. Bob Moore, Manager of Hawks Cay, did not attend the meeting, but did he did provide an update found below:

Good morning,

Both Sheldon and I will not be able to make the Security Meeting this afternoon due to previous commitments.

We would like to let you know that we will be hosting the annual SmartRide event on November 19th and 20th where bike riders will be riding from Miami to Key West, stopping for the night of November 19th at the Resort for one night. The charity ride to benefit HIV and Aids, has approx. 600 participants staying with us, mostly in the villas for the night. Arrival on Friday the 19th will be throughout the afternoon and departure on Saturday will be between 8:30am-9:00am.

We will be hosting our annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning starting at 8am from Angler and Ale. The route will include the Truman Bridge and Center Island and

should conclude by 9:00am. All Duck Key residents are welcome to join the run and can go to our website for details.

We also hope to host an additional Covid 19 vaccination day toward the end of November or in the beginning of December. Our October event was the busiest we have had and we were happy to vaccinate (13) Duck Key residents.

FWC – James Yetter did not attend the meeting, (on vacation).

NEW BUSINESS

Bridge Update – Judith Clarke, Chief Engineer, Monroe County gave an update on the bridges:

American Empire Builders (AEB) has completed the temporary critical wall adjacent to the west end of the Bimini Drive Bridge and demolished the west end of the bridge to prepare for installing the sheet pile wall. The contractor plans to begin installing the sheet pile wall along the canal under the south side of the bridge during the week of Nov. 8 and anticipates completing both sides within two weeks. Vibration monitoring equipment is installed, and monitoring will occur during the work, as required by the project specifications.

FCAA's pipeline contractor completed the installation and pressure testing of the lines on Bimini Drive Bridge and is waiting for approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection before performing the final tie-in of the lines.

The contractor completed construction of the south lane of the Seaview Bridge and opened it for traffic on Oct. 29; allowable loads are the Florida Legal Loads. AEB began demolition of the north lane of the Seaview Bridge.

AEB is installing the railings on the Harbour Drive Bridge; work should be completed the week of Nov. 8. Once the railing is installed, the traffic will be shifted to the east lane, and the reduced weight limits will be removed on the Harbour Drive Bridge as well. This is anticipated to occur the week of Nov. 15.

Resident, David Williamson asked Judith Clarke if it would be possible to add a sign “No Right on Red” to the Bimini Drive Bridge. She will look into adding the sign.

There was discussion from Board Members on the time span on the bridges of the green lights as there have been frequent episodes of traffic coming in one direction with the green light, but not enough time to cross before the other side receives the green light signal. Judith Clarke advised there is a sensor that should extend the green light time span if vehicles are proceeding with the green light signal. Board Members advised her this was not the case, questioned the time frame of 15 seconds and asked the time frame to be

extended to prevent accidents. Judith Clarke advised this could be possible but people become frustrated when the time span is too long and tend to then “run” the lights. It was suggested 15 seconds was not the adequate time frame for walkers/bikers to cross the bridges, and the time frame of the green lights should take this into consideration for the safety of those people. It was suggested a sign for walkers/bikers be added advising them “No stopping on Bridges”. Judith Clarke advised that too many signs can cause “Sign Fatigue” and be ignored? Also suggested adding at the lights a “countdown”, making people aware of the time available to still proceed.

Resident Ron Oestreicher asked about the new “limits” on the East Seaview Bridge. Judith Clarke advised this was limiting vehicles to 9 ½ feet, due to the guardrail constraints. There is no way to change this limit at this point on the bridge, as the lower beams are set, but this should be reconciled in the next phase when the railings will be moved to the “true middle” of that bridge. Phase II should be done prior to Christmas and will move the middle railing a ½ foot.

Timing on the completion of the permanent bridges completions for East Seaview and Harbour Bridges was asked for. Judith Clarke advised the bids on both these bridges will not be out until the Bimini Drive Bridge is done, so several years until the permanent additional bridges are done.

Additional note, post-Security Board meeting, 11/10/21:

The strengthened lane on Harbour Drive Bridge on Duck Key is complete and has been opened for traffic. The traffic is alternating two-way traffic over the one strengthened lane, and the reduced weight limit has been removed. The allowable weight is the Florida Legal Loads.

Solid Waste is letting Marathon Garbage Service know that Harbour Drive is now open so regular service may resume. All three bridges are now at Florida Legal load limit. Restoration work continues.

-Kimberly Matthews

Next DKSAB meeting will be January 4, 2021, at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

There were no Public Comments prior to adjourning.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Laurie Oestreicher, 390 E. Seaview Drive, Duck Key FL
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