

MINUTES

City Council Public Safety Committee

Thursday, April 24, 2018 – 5:00 PM
Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

Members Present: Maurice Jones, Chair, Council Member
Charlie Landreth, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Phil Harris, Police Chief
Mike Galloway, Interim Fire Chief

Absent: None

Staff Present: Daniel Cobb, Planning Director
Aaron Bland, Planning Department
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Maurice Jones called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Fatland, seconded by Interim Chief Galloway to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2018 Meeting

Motion by Chief Harris, seconded by Mr. Fatland to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Bike Friendly – Map of City Speed Limits

Mr. Cobb explained that when we applied for the Bike Friendly Community designation in 2017, we received an honorable mention, which means we scored well, but not well enough to get a Bronze designation. We scored well on a number of things like bike paths but in order to get us to the next level, we have been working with the Council and the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee to come up with a master plan for Bike Friendly designation and we think we are pretty close to

getting to the Bronze level. One of the components of that is traffic calming and speed limits, both of which have a direct impact on rider and pedestrian comfort and safety.

Mr. Bland explained that one of the things in the application for Bike Friendly Community is questions about our road network. There is strong emphasis not only on cycling as recreation, but also cycling as transportation and one of the metrics they look at is the speed limits of residential streets. They would like to see streets be limited to no more than 20 mph. Currently we have very few residential streets with a speed limit that low and most are at 25 mph now. He asked for thoughts as to whether it is a good idea to lower speed limits more broadly throughout the City in residential areas, which also brings up concerns about enforcement of the lower speed limit. Mr. Landreth felt that the public perception of a 20 mph street that we are not enforcing would create more dissatisfaction with the City if we are not on top of it. He feels that lowering the speed limit to 20 mph can't happen without the designation and if we do it just for the application to get the designation and then don't get it, it will be hard to defend.

Mr. Jones expressed concern that if we are successful with lowering those speed limits and enforcing it, it seems that some of these streets would not connect to make a path. Mr. Bland said another component of the designation is creating a low-stress street network, including bike boulevards which are streets that we as a city have decided are good routes to send people on so they don't have to ride on the busier streets and highways. People would know these are better, safer routes to certain destinations. Mr. Landreth suggested we could set up our own bike network and mark it at 20 mph as a service to bikers in the community even without the national designation. Mr. Fatland suggested that the Planning staff look at the bike routes and come back to the Committee with defined routes to travel through Brevard at 20 mph, which would make it easier to explain to the public and for the Council to embrace it.

F. Bike Friendly – Traffic Calming Devices

Mr. Bland explained that traffic calming devices are physical changes to the street that encourage people to drive slower. He provided information and examples of several types of devices that could be implemented on certain streets in residential areas to create the low stress network of streets that are comfortable and safe to bike on. The devices range from a simple speed hump to physically blocking the street at some point. Mr. Bland pointed out that these not only slow down the vehicles driving on that street, they also actually will discourage drivers from taking that shortcut and direct them to streets designed for heavier traffic.

Mr. Cobb said the intent of the list is to put this on the books as policy to give the Zoning Administrator a menu of options when reviewing plans and pick what fits best for any given situation. Mr. Jones said he likes the idea as long as our emergency services and public works vehicles don't have any issues. Chief Harris thought it is worth a test in our community and we could pick a few locations to try

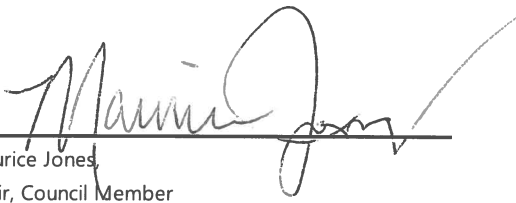
some of these. Mr. Landreth said we need to establish the bike situation that makes sense for our city, regardless of whether it passes the national designation. Motion by Mr. Fatland, seconded by Mr. Landreth to direct Planning staff to come back to the Committee with a definitive plan with defined bicycle routes and types of calming devices that make sense on those routes. The motion carried unanimously.

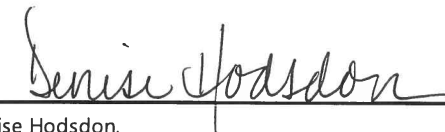
G. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

H. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Landreth, seconded by Mr. Fatland to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

X 
Maurice Jones
Chair, Council Member

X 
Denise Hodsdon,
Executive Assitant

Minutes Approved: February 25, 2019