

SANDESTIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Safety and Security Committee
June 11, 2024
Notes

Members Present: Melissa Cocks, Acting Chair, Ray Agnor, Connie Yarbrow, Diane Zierhoffer, Ralph Carroll, Mariam Younger,

Others Present: Jimmy Willis, Security Director, Tom Cooper, Executive Director, Aimie Trussell, Executive Assistant

Previous Meeting Notes

Members reviewed the notes from the April 9, 2024 meeting and accepted them as presented.

New Business

Citation Demographics

Jimmy Willis reviewed a graph outlining the percentages of each type of citation issued and who received it, per the members request at the last meeting. Members discussed the percentages and types of citations issued to owners or guests versus visitors or contractors. Mr. Willis explained that golf cart citations are issued to owners, guests, or long-term residents, parking citations are issued to vehicles with decals or guest passes, and the most common citation, speeding, is issued to all. Members then discussed the fine hearing process and requested a pay rate percentage. **<ACTION>**

Staff confirmed that the most challenging fines to collect are those issued to visitors as they are here for a day and do not fall under the responsibility of a specific owner or ever return to the property. Members asked if the revenue received from the citations was adequate to cover the man hours including the administrative costs for the new fine hearing process. The revenue is reported in the monthly financials available on the website and staff noted that they do not feel the total revenue covers the cost of collecting the funds.

Residential Density Growth

Mr. Willis reminded the members that they requested information regarding how many security officers per Residential Density Unit (RDU) are on staff in comparison to the growth over the last 10 years. Graphs were reviewed showing the number of empty lots, homes/condos built, and commercial development from 2012 – 2023. It was noted that these numbers include Osprey Pointe and Hotel Effie and that there are approximately 1300 more potential RDU's to be developed. Members discussed the RDU to staff ratio and the potential need to increase staff as well as the amount of assessments needed to cover one employee's pay and benefits. Jimmy discussed how staff is affected by development in the immediate area but also outside the gate, using the Moxy as a prime example as the guests would be accessing the property to visit The Village, golf courses, etc.

Old Business:

Mike Hayes Blvd

Jimmy updated members on the status of having a fire lane marked on Mike Hayes Blvd to prevent parking along the curb stating that it did not meet the requirements of the South Walton Fire District. SOA will move forward with striping the road and have posted "No Parking-Both Sides of Street" signs along the road from Baytowne Ave to the Marina. Members asked about which areas were monitored by SOA Staff and which belonged to SDI, staff noted that we assist all entities with warnings for unauthorized parking but that citations can only be issued to those on SOA roadways or common property. Discussion ensued regarding the steps that SDI and The Village are taking to monitor employees and owner parking.

Golf Cart Rule Stickers

At the last meeting, the new golf cart rule stickers were discussed noting that a QR code had been added for access to the full set of rules and regulations. After reviewing the sample, discussion ensued regarding the length of the rules and the unlikelihood that anyone would read them in their entirety.

Members recommended a map be available to direct drivers to the tunnel and the golf cart access gate for Grand Blvd. Staff noted that options will be reviewed to provide this information. **<ACTION>**

Security Uniforms

Mr. Willis stated that the new uniforms would be in this week and provided to staff over the following two weeks, encouraging members to watch out for the new look as they passed through the gates.

Chief's Report

Jimmy Willis presented the year-to-date statistics for calls, including the increased traffic count from last year noting that we would likely exceed 4 million through the gates this year.

Members reviewed the lifeguard statistics for April and May, discussing the concerns, actions and response in shark situations. Jimmy explained that both the Coast Guard and lifeguards watch sharks in the area for type, actions and behavior patterns. Members discussed seeing boats, helicopters and various patrols monitoring the waters in response to the shark attacks last week. Mr. Willis stated that the last attack was in 2019 and it was a single attack.

Tom Cooper noted that the lifeguard contract renewal is due this fall. Members discussed the cost and liability. All agreed to recommend renewing the contract to the Board of Directors. **<ACTION>**

Member Comments

Melissa Cocks asked members to consider overhead signage at the gates to assist with directing incoming traffic to the appropriate lanes. (i.e., Guest, Visitor, Owner) noting that this was reviewed quite a few years ago but at the time the members felt it had a theme park look and did not recommend moving forward. Tom Cooper shared that the discussion occurred 15-20 years ago prior to the commercial growth and that the goal now would be to make the overhead signage compatible with the upcoming changes in signage being considered for the entire community. Mr. Cooper advised that SDI has made a presentation regarding planned signage and that the SOA had been working with a company out of Atlanta to coordinate a look but not match SDI's exactly. Members agreed a quote for overhead signage should be obtained. **<ACTION>**

In regard to the "Project Process", Mr. Cooper explained that often staff presented a need or idea to the committee members, then the members, as owners and users, shared their input, ideas and guidance. If the idea was to move forward and was more operational, staff typically carried out the actions. If it was a project that required further research, discussion or decision making, then an ad-hoc committee would be formed to move forward. Tom explained that each project was a little different, varying with time, cost, multiple committee reviews/recommendations and then the Board of Directors approval.

Members were asked to view overhead signage online and while traveling, sharing ideas and suggestions with Jimmy Willis via email. **<ACTION>**

Next Meeting: August 6, 1:30 p.m.