

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Perry Johnston, Co-Chairman
Christine Russell
Gloria Sellers
Phil Anderton
Roger McVeigh
Virginia Panico
Melissa Kendrick
Peter Batty
Janet Kelly
Greg Sullivan, Waste Management
R.B. Havens, City of Key West Public Works
Jim Scholl, City Manager
Barry Gibson, City Commissioner District 4
Vivian Perez, City of Key West Mayor and City Commissioners Office

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley thanked the City Manager Jim Scholl for attending and mentioned to Mr. Scholl that the Duval Street Committee will be meeting weekly with some exceptions.

Chairman Weekley advised Commissioner Barry Gibson that the Committee decided at the last meeting to start from the beginning with cleanliness on Duval Street. Chairman Weekley also mentioned to Commissioner Gibson and City Manager Scholl that the Committee will eventually need some assistant from the City Attorney's Office, and that he will advise when the Committee would need such assistance.

Chairman Weekley advised everyone that Greg Sullivan from Waste Management was invited to this meeting so he can explain what role Waste Management has as far as trash pick up in the City of Key West in particular Duval Street. Chairman Weekley also mentioned that everyone should have a copy of trash ordinance that was provided by R.B. Havens.

Greg Sullivan from Waste Management began by explaining to the Committee that he has a contract with the City of Key West and the rate are set by the City and every business is required to have a solid waste account.

Mr. Sullivan also stated that Waste Management in conjunction with Public Work also picks up the liter receptacles that are put out by the City of Key West. Mr. Sullivan also

mentioned that now the cans are lined making it easier to the bags out then dumping the trash can in the trucks.

Chairman Weekley asked Mr. Sullivan what time does Waste Management start to pick up on Duval Street and what days.

Mr. Sullivan replied that Waste Management begins picking up at 4:00 a.m. and it is seven days a week.

Mr. Sullivan and R.B. Haven discussed and explained different scenarios (problems) they encounter on a daily basis pertaining to trash and the trash container that are placed around town especially in the downtown area.

Chairman Weekley asked if one of the biggest issues was the businesses using public trash cans for their trash. Mr. Sullivan agreed and stated for example he found a very heavy boat battery in one of the trash cans.

Chairman Weekley asked of the City of Key West recycling efforts. Mr. Havens stated that the City has 40 cans coming which will help with recycling efforts.

Mr. Bob Schettig suggested one way to minimize trash from Duval Street is by enforcing the Open Container Law that are on the books and if not ensure enforcement then it should not be there.

Chairman Weekley gave the committee a quick history stating that at one point the Commission tried to remove the Open Container Law from the books but the Police Department asked me them not to as they use it as tool to arrest people when they have to.

Jim Scholl, City Manager stated that enforcing the laws it's a resource and limitation issue just like everything else in the City. The City of Key West has make sure that there are those resource.

Mr. Peter Batty although he is a favor of enforcing the open container law he believes that is not within the ability for this committee to do so at this time. Mr. Batty suggested looking at things that are obtainable in the real world and with the help of the City of Key West and Waste Management and figure out what can be done initially and build on the Committee's success.

Mr. Sullivan mentioned awareness to the merchant in the downtown area. Mr. Sullivan stated that people are interested in recycling.

Several ideas that were mentioned:

1. Use the same cup when a customer is having their second or third drink.
2. Special Events – Event cups
3. Mandate that bars serve in glass containers

4. or serve in a more costly plastic cup

Ms. Melissa Kendrick thought that the predecessor to the Duval Street Committee was the Mayor's Resident/Visitor Committee which tackled most of these concerns and in their final report to the Commission came up with several good recommendations. Ms. Kendrick believes the City has a trash problem not an open container problem.

Ms. Christine Russell suggested that the only mugs allowed on the streets are City mugs.

Chairman Weekley stated that the City of Key West has developed a reputation over many years allowing open container so if we just say that this is not going to happen any longer then you will have all the bars and restaurant upset including some guest houses the promote to there quest they can walk around with a drink in hand.

Chairman Weekley believes one of the issues to focus on to provide additional receptacles not only on Duval Street but also all the side streets.

Mr. Sullivan would like to suggest a bigger fine when a merchant is caught discarding unacceptable trash.

Chairman Weekley asked if the current fine determined by State Statue or is it by the City's Ordinance. Mr. Haven stated the City's Ordinance states you can fine up to \$500.00 but there is a Statue of limitations on the fine.

Mr. Sullivan stated that to the best of his knowledge anyone has ever been caught has ever paid the fine.

Mr. Havens informed the Committee that he and the City Attorney are looking into changing the Ordinance instead of giving a notice to appear before the Special Master they would be given a Civil Citation to appear before a Judge. Mr. Havens stated that he and the City Attorney are still researching fees i.e. administrative fees, processing.

Phil Anderton mentioned to the Committee that he did a survey of the 700 block Duval Street as example to present to the Committee of some information he found. Mr. Anderton spoke with Bonita Myers in Code Enforcement and requested a list of all commercial accounts with the number of pick up's and who recycles. Mr. Anderton stated that there are only three people recycling and now there is four since he just signed up to recycle. Mr. Anderton stated that he would be willing to pay as a 700 block Captain for a recycle (strictly cardboard) container for the use of everyone on the 700 block of Duval Street. Mr. Anderton would let all of the merchants know that he is recycling and that he would make arrangements to come by and pick up their cardboard. Mr. Anderton asked if he does this can he get a larger container to put behind his store.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he can have any size he would need.

Mr. Anderton asked if there is anything that Waste Management can do to offset the cost of the container since it is for the entire 700 block of Duval Street and if the City of Key West offer a decal to recognize the stores/business/bars that do recycle on Duval Street or can the City of Key West give the business that does recycle a discount when they renew their occupational license.

Mr. Havens stated that the City of Key West is looking into different ways to recognize a business that recycle i.e. decals for windows or a letter. Mr. Haven mentioned that the City of Key West is trying to for the businesses that do recycle. Mr. Havens indicated they want it to look nice but also trying to keep the cost down.

Chairman Weekley mentioned that the City also has another Committee call the Clean and Green Committee and was concerned with duplicating their efforts and suggested that a member of that Committee be invited to attend the Duval Street Committee. Chairman Weekley suggested invited Annalise Man nix to attend the meeting.

R.B. Havens, Director of Public Works stated that he is a part of the Clean and Green Committee and so far there has not been any duplication of efforts.

Chairman Weekley suggested that the Committee Members come up with several recommendations, email them to Vivian Perez so that she can compile them and have them available to discuss at the next meeting.

The topics for the next meeting will be Recommendations and Final Report Resident/Visitor Committee.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 3:20 p.m.