

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Gloria Sellers
Janet Kelly
Christine Russell
Perry Johnston
R.B. Havens, City of Key West Public Works
Steve Torrence, Key West Police Department
Alan Averette, Key West Fire Department
Barry Gibson, City Commissioner District IV

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

Chairman Jimmy Weekley began with the reminder that the meeting was devoted to discussing a way to test the idea of making Duval Street a pedestrian mall. The committee was reminded that the first test would be limited to two or three blocks and over a single weekend in the August-September time frame.

The first concern was over access to the street for fire, police and emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Barry Gibson asked about booths in the middle of the street. Alan Averette said that booths in the middle of streets may raise some concern to rescue issue. Alan Averette explained that Gators can be used for medical rescue, but in case of fire, the fire truck must have room to get down the street.

Chairman Weekley mentioned that on South Beach there are chairs and tables. It was pointed out that Duval Street is only 50' feet, which is not enough to put things in the middle of the street. Chairman Weekley mentioned that the issue is not so much where you have what as long as there is room for a fire lane—including room for the ladder trucks.

Alan:

Alan Averette said that the good news is that there are a lot of hydrants and Gators could be used. RB Havens reported that there is one in storage at Parks and Recreation and one on Sunset Key. Plus it helps that paramedics can use bikes during the street closures.

Commissioner Barry Gibson stated his concern will be fire and police safety.

Police spokesperson (Steve) loading zones sometimes an access problem. which blocks are closed is a function of travel flow; if we close block 7 and 8 for example, we have to go to block 9 because of street configuration and traffic flow.

There was a discussion on what are the peak times on Duval Street on the weekends. It was stated that it all depends but things start to get busy by 10:00-11:00 during the weekday and on the on weekends it starts to get busy at 11:30-1:30.

Steve Torrence said it is easy to close the 500 block of Duval Street because we simply can go from Fleming to Southard with a traffic flow

Steve Torrence mentioned the use of the horse that the city leases for \$1 a year, but then we would have to consider the Lieutenant's that is riding the horse (salary-especially overtime).

It was also mentioned the ability to put a bike on each side of the street and the use of Electric cars would be a great idea but the salt water eats up the batteries quickly.

There was a discussion concerning a problem with drugs in some of those locations, and how the dealers keeping shifting and sometimes the drug deals move out of the neighborhoods and on to Duval Street.

Chairman Weekley asked the committee to think about specific dates for the Duval Street closures.

Commissioner Gibson asked that we focus it as a local's event.

Commissioner Gibson stated that he will talk to Virginia Panico about dates of Dog Days and if she could think of other concerns from the merchants.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 2:45 p.m.

(Recordings of the meetings are maintained with the Executive Aide to the Mayor and Commissioners)