

Duval Street Committee Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Present: Jimmy Weekley, Chairman
Gloria Sellers
Janet Kelly
Christine Russell
Perry Johnston
Roger McVeigh
Michael Davila, Key West Fire Department
Alan Averette, Key West Fire Department
Vivian Perez, City of Key West Mayor and City Commissioners Office

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Chairman Jimmy Weekley announced that Carolann Sharkey has been out of town and is not able to attend today's meeting, but he will contact her concerning her attendance at the June 4th meeting. Chairman Weekley stated he will encourage Ms Sharkey to contact the urban design person she knows from Miami to give us a demonstration of possible future "looks" for Duval Street.

Chairman Weekley recapped last weeks meeting with fire and police officials to stated ay that there are no big problems in closing Duval Street as long as a fire lane is kept clear (fire truck 8 1/2 feet wide but the ladder needs 17 feet) and there also needs to be a 17 foot turning radius on the corners for the truck).

Michael Davila asked what times would Duval Street be closed and suggested perhaps Friday evening, 6-11PM, Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoons.

Chairman Weekley reminded the committee that we were talking about restaurants, not bars, moving out onto the sidewalks.

Michael Davila said that during Lobsterfest restaurants brought tents, concrete blocks and other heavy material to the middle of the street – which would cause a problem to remove on timely manner in case of emergency.

Roger McVeigh reminded the committee that the Committee was talking and thinking only a few tables and chairs from the restaurants would be on the sidewalks.

Michael Davila suggested that the Committee establish guidelines as to how far out that the tables and chairs would come out to. Michael Davila stated that from a safety perspective he thought sidewalk only would be better.

Chairman Weekley suggested that we put all tables on the sidewalks only and have pedestrians use the street and reminded everyone this is a demonstration at the beginning. Chairman Weekley stated this would allow the Committee to make necessary adjustments and changes as the Committee continues with other block closures.

Chairman Weekley asked if anyone knows if Commissioner Gibson was able to talk with Virginia Panico about advertising the closure with part of the Dog Days celebration in which special discounts would be afforded to locals. No one knew the answer to this question.

Gloria Sellers suggested that we need a theme to help highlight the event.

Chairman Weekley believes that perhaps people will donate benches once this program has evolved.

Perry Johnston thought it would be a good idea to show some type of drawing of what Duval could look like with plants, art, music and benches to the merchants.

Roger McVeigh suggested the Committee come up with some easy means of securing benches if they become a permanent feature of Duval Street.

Chairman Weekley suggested that the first block of Duval Street for a demonstration feature is a closure from Fleming to Angela but as Michael Davila reminded no intersections will be closed.

Gloria Sellers asked if the merchants would have to pay a fee. Chairman Weekley suggested and recommended that no fees are charged for this demonstration project.

Chairman Weekley stated that he will call Bert Bender and tell him what the Committee is thinking of doing and then Perry Johnston could follow up with Mr. Bender on more specific plans.

The time of the closures was again discussed with more specificity: Friday at 4PM until midnight, open until Saturday noon until midnight and Sunday morning and afternoon.

Roger McVeigh agreed to think about a concept and discuss the idea with others in town.

Chairman Weekley stated that there would not be a meeting next Wednesday due to a conflict. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, June 04, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at 525 Angela Street in the ADA Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

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