



Islamorada, Village of Islands **COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

October 3, 2023 - 5:30 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III called the meeting to order at 05:28 PM.

PRESENT: Council Member Mark Gregg, Council Member Elizabeth Jolin,
Council Member Henry Rosenthal, Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney,
Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III,

ABSENT:

Chief Terry Abel led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pinder said a prayer to start the meeting.

II. Introduction

Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney noted her intent with the workshop was to discuss ideas to make community rideshare have zero impact, with no cost to the taxpayers. She indicated she would like to form an evaluation committee.

Vice Mayor Mahoney introduced Jim Lashley, a 10-year Islamorada resident, who took the opportunity to get involved when he received the Freebee survey. With a background in business, he summarized his findings of the service and shared his ideas for improvement, which included potentially charging a nominal fee to riders.

III. Workshop Goals

Goals of the workshop included forming a committee and creating an RFP for rideshare services.

IV. Freebee Service Summary

Finance Director Maria Bassett noted the Freebee services came about through a pilot program. There was a grant opportunity that was dependent upon expanding the service and was currently being proposed. Ms. Bassett noted the lead time to apply for the grant was a year in advance and that the Village could accept the grant while exploring alternatives. She further noted that the service is not funded through ad valorem taxes.

V. Alternatives

Discussion ensued regarding alternate services.

VI. Public Input and Discussion

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Tom Raffanella

Van Cadenhead

Dave Boerner

Deb Gillis

Joe Wischmeier

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Pinder closed public comment.

VII. Recap

Staff noted it would bring a resolution forward in November to form the requested committee. Vice Mayor Mahoney encouraged residents interested in serving on the committee to reach out to Mr Lashley.

It was further noted that the resolution to accept the grant would be put on an upcoming agenda, with the clarification that the grant could be discontinued in the future if necessary.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.