

KCB addresses speed limit, emergency plans

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KEY COLONY BEACH — The Key Colony Beach City Commission met Jan. 22 to discuss Marble Hall updates and lowering city speed limits to enhance safety. The city also shared a full slate of events during the height of the winter season.

The commission was apprised that Key West recently reduced citywide speed limits to 20 mph for safety reasons “except through a few zones,” which Key Colony Beach is also considering as an

option via an ordinance. A Key Colony Beach resident had expressed concern for children playing in certain areas, a commissioner said. He cited a statistic that a 5% decrease in the speed limit reduces accidents involving children by 40%. He added Florida law says no lower than 20 mph is allowed.

The commission is to consider the speed limit issue further, especially in areas such as Sunset Park

and West Ocean in front of City Hall, with First and Second streets a “good place to start,” argued a commissioner.

The city also discussed the functionality of its generators in the event of a major storm. Determining the gallons of fuel needed and where to place them were among the issues discussed. One commissioner researched the need and said in the past 10 years, the city experienced seven large storms and the

average power outage was 11 days. Another consideration was wastewater treatment and it was estimated the holding tank could function about nine days.

It was shared that Key Colony Beach was responsible for about 6.5% of Marathon Fire Rescue service calls. In fiscal year 2024-2025, the city’s payment to Marathon was \$970,000 for fire rescue service.

Beginning in February, commission, board and committee meetings are to start at 3:30 p.m. to facilitate city hall construction. Counter service is available

at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Key Colony Beach Concert in the Park series at Sunset Park features free Sunday afternoon live music in February and March, sponsored by the Key Colony Beach Community Association. The season opened Sunday, Jan. 25, with John Bartus, city manager and longtime guitarist and singer-songwriter playing. The concert was held in the new tiki at Sunset Park at 4 p.m. Performances often feature local artists.

The city has several events scheduled. The 7-Meter Bridge Run kicks off at the north side of the bridge on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 3 to 3:07 p.m. The community association’s Food Truck Jamboree in the 7th Street Park near the bocce ball court follows the run from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Pop’s BBQ, Empanada Nation, the Pretzel Bar, Sabores Unidos, Cud-joe Pizza and more will be there. Admission is free; food is available for purchase.

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