

City of Delray Beach

*100 N.W. 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444*



Minutes - Draft

Thursday, April 16, 2026

09:00 AM

SOC Lobby Conference Room

Green Implementation Advancement Board

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:01 a.m.

Due to the absence of the Chair and no appointed Vice Chair, a motion was made to appoint Kent Edwards as Temporary Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Board Members Present:

- Kent Edwards (Temporary Chair)
- John Wieland
- Vinnie Ardillo

Staff Present:

- Chris Chitester
- Brendan Buchanan
- William Bennett

Present 3 - John Edwards, Vinnie Ardillo, and John Wieland

Absent 2 - Catherine Toms, and Evan Orellana

2. Approval of Agenda

This was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Amended to include additional comments made by Kent Edwards regarding his status as a board member, and his suggestion to change the meeting time to after 5:00pm.

Attachments: [GIAB Meeting Minutes - 2026-03-19-draft.pdf](#)

4. Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No public present.

5. Old Business

5.a. Sustainability and Resilience Master Plan

Staff reported that Requests for Proposals (RFPs) had been issued to pre-qualified consultants, with submissions due by the end of the month. One firm declined to participate, reducing the pool to two respondents.

It was noted that:

- Consultant selection will likely be price-based due to prior qualification screening
- Recent state legislation requires reframing sustainability efforts away from “net zero” terminology toward financial benefits, efficiency, and risk reduction

Board discussion emphasized that:

- Existing Climate Action Plan content may still be adaptable
- Messaging should focus on cost savings, efficiency, and resilience outcomes

No formal action was taken.

5.b. Education Topics

5.b.i. Earth Day

Staff provided an update on Earth Day and Arbor Day events, including:

- Event logistics, setup, and coordination with the Historical Society
- Distribution of educational materials and sustainability-themed giveaways
- Preparation of approximately 42 participant gift bags

Board discussion included:

- Event promotion and City visibility
- Sustainable food service materials
- Avoidance of single-use plastics

No formal action was taken.

5.c. Legislative Topics (See OSAR Report)

Staff reported no significant updates since the previous meeting.

Board discussion included:

- Impacts of state preemption on environmental regulation (e.g., wetland buffers)
- Importance of community education and voluntary conservation practices
- Pending property tax legislation and its implications for local government funding
- Relationship between resilience investments and reduced insurance costs

Board members emphasized the importance of framing sustainability initiatives in terms of economic and efficiency benefits.

No formal action was taken.

6. New Business

6.a. Meeting Time

Temporary Chair Edwards introduced discussion regarding changing the meeting time to improve accessibility and participation.

Board discussion included:

- Benefits of moving meetings to evening hours
- Potential impacts on current and future Board member participation
- Procedural considerations for modifying official meeting schedules

It was determined that:

- Additional input from absent Board members is needed
- The item will remain on a future agenda for further consideration

No formal action was taken.

7. Board Comments

Board members discussed:

- The need for improved government efficiency and streamlined processes
- Public engagement and accessibility of Board activities
- Reframing sustainability initiatives using clear, practical language (e.g., efficiency, cost savings) rather than technical or politicized terminology

Staff reiterated that while terminology may be restricted, implementation of efficiency-based initiatives remains viable and effective.

8. Staff Comments

Program Updates

Staff provided updates on several initiatives, including:

- Tree Program:
 - o 320 trees reserved to date
 - o Approximately \$60,000 available for future plantings
 - o Ongoing funding challenges and upcoming presentation to City Commission
- EV Charging Program Proposal:
 - o Proposed \$18,000 investment for upgraded charging infrastructure
 - o Estimated payback period of less than one year
 - o Potential to transition program into a self-sustaining revenue model
- Environmental Preserve / Green Infrastructure:
 - o Multi-year restoration approach recommended
 - o Discussion of potential citywide green infrastructure strategy
- Sustainability Outreach Items:
 - o Consideration of reusable alternatives (e.g., straw-cleaning tools)
 - o Emphasis on practical, behavior-based sustainability actions

GIS Sustainability and Resilience Portal Presentation

Staff presented a new GIS-based platform designed to support planning and public engagement. Key components include:

- Social sustainability mapping (schools, food resources)
- Nature-based resilience (tree inventory, habitat features)
- Transportation and mobility (bus routes, rail, microtransit, future real-time tracking)
- Flood risk and sea level rise visualization (FEMA data and projected scenarios)

The platform is intended to replace the existing City sustainability GIS portal and improve accessibility, transparency, and decision-making tools.

Additional Items

- Request to include the Green Building Ordinance and associated scoring criteria on a future agenda

Attachments: [GIAB Staff Report - 2026-04-16.pdf](#)

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Temporary Chair at approximately 10:44 a.m.