

# City of Delray Beach

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



## **Minutes - Draft**

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

**434 S Swinton Ave - SOC Lobby Conference Room**

**Green Implementation Advancement Board**

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Chair Evan Orellana

## 2. Roll Call

**Present:**

- Evan Orellana
- Chris Chitester (Staff)
- Catherine Toms
- John Janusz (Presenter)
- Kent Edwards
- Tara Brenner (Public)
- William Bennett (City Attorney's Office)

**Present** 3 - John Edwards, Catherine Toms, and Evan Orellana

**Absent** 1 - Vinnie Ardillo

## 3. Approval of Agenda

This was approved.

## 4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 19, 2026 and March 3, 2026 meetings were approved

**Attachments:** [GIAB Meeting Minutes - 2026-02-19-draft.pdf](#)

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

## 5. Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Tara Brenner, a member of the public, was present. She had no comments at this time. She had previously expressed her interest in how HB1271 would affect our work in the OSAR.

## 6. Presentation

### 6.a. Freebee

A presentation was provided by John Janusz regarding Freebee's microtransit operations.

**Key Points:**

- Freebee provides on-demand microtransit using electric vehicles, operating in over 50 municipalities.
- Service has been active in Delray Beach since 2019, averaging approximately 300 riders per day.
- Demand exceeds supply by an estimated 3-4 times.
- Vehicles are primarily electric, contributing to reduced emissions and improved local air quality.
- New vehicle models (Volkswagen ID Buzz) increase passenger capacity and operational resilience.

**Operational Insights:**

- Service supports economic development by directing riders to local businesses.
- App includes business promotions and local event listings.
- Wheelchair-accessible service is available with advance notice.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Potential expansion to Tri-Rail stations due to high ridership demand.
- Opportunities to reduce downtown congestion and parking demand.
- Integration with regional transit systems (Palm Tran, Tri-Rail).
- Current service zones limit certain trip patterns; expansion authority now rests with the City rather than CRA.

**Board Feedback:**

- Strong interest in expanding service to Tri-Rail and along US-1.
- Recognition of microtransit as a flexible, scalable transportation solution.

## 7. Old Business

### 7.a. Sustainability and Resilience Master Plan

Staff provided an update regarding impacts from pending state legislation (HB 1217).

**Key Points:**

- Proposed legislation restricts municipal programs tied to “net zero” goals.
- Existing RFP for a climate action plan was withdrawn and rewritten to comply with anticipated legal changes.
- Revised RFP focuses on financial and resilience-based benefits rather than emissions reductions.
- Timeline:
  - o Proposals due: April 20, 2026
  - o Consultant selection: April 30, 2026

**Discussion:**

- Anticipated legal and operational challenges due to legislative changes.
- Opportunity to reframe sustainability initiatives around economic and community benefits.

### 7.b Green Building Ordinance Evaluation

- No major updates; evaluation remains ongoing.
- Staff indicated confidence that green building standards can be justified based on financial and health benefits, independent of emissions goals.
- Board discussed potential future adjustments (e.g., square footage thresholds).

### 7.c. Education Topics

#### 7.c.i. Earth Day

- Planning is underway; venue not yet confirmed.
- Potential venues:
  - o Cornell Art Museum (pending confirmation)
  - o Arts Warehouse (under renovation)
  - o Delray Beach Historical Society
  - o Public Library (alternative option)

**Status:**

- Event date tentatively targeted for late April.

- Vendor and programming concepts identified; awaiting venue confirmation.

## 8. Legislative Topics (See OSAR Report)

### Updates Included:

- Mangrove Restoration Bill: Passed; recognizes nature-based shoreline solutions as viable resilience strategies.
- HB 1217 (Net Zero Restrictions): Significant implications for municipal sustainability programs.
- Brownfield Redevelopment Incentives: Passed; encourages remediation and reuse of contaminated sites.
- Single-Use Plastics Regulation: Shift toward science-based standards for compostability.
- Wetland/Buffer Preemption: Limits local government authority.

### Discussion:

- Emphasis on reframing sustainability initiatives around cost savings and operational efficiency.
- Recognition that transportation sector offers highest potential for near-term emissions reductions.

## 9. New Business

Add "GIAB Meeting Time" to April 16th agenda.

## 10. Board Comments

- Discussion regarding meeting time adjustments to improve board member participation (potential shift to evening meetings).
- Clarification requested regarding board membership status and administrative processes.

## 11. Staff Comments

### Tree Planting Program:

- 165 of 420 trees distributed; additional funding needed for program continuation.
- Alternative funding strategies under discussion due to limitations of Tree Trust Fund.

### GIS and Data Initiatives:

- Staff highlighted significant progress on GIS tools, including:
  - Tree canopy and biodiversity mapping
  - Transportation and mobility mapping
  - Social services access mapping
  - Flood and sea level rise risk visualization
- Future capabilities may include:
  - Parcel-level flood risk visualization
  - Emergency planning tools
  - Public-facing environmental data dashboards

### EV Charging Infrastructure:

- Evaluation ongoing regarding monetization of public chargers.
- Need for networked systems to collect utilization data and sustain program funding.

**Attachments:** [GIAB Staff Report - 2026-03-19.pdf](#)

## 12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31am