

City of Delray Beach

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



Minutes - Draft

Thursday, February 19, 2026

09:00 AM

SOC Lobby Conference Room

Green Implementation Advancement Board

1. Call to Order

Chair Evan Orellana called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 AM

2. Roll Call

Present 3 - Vinnie Ardillo, Catherine Toms, and Evan Orellana

Absent 1 - John Edwards

3. Approval of Agenda

This was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

This was approved.

Attachments: [GIAB Meeting Minutes - 2025-12-18-draft.pdf](#)

5. Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No members of the public were present. No public comments were received.

6. Old Business

6.a. Sustainability & Resilience Master Plan

Staff provided an update on the newly titled Sustainability & Resilience Master Plan. The name aligns with other City master plans (e.g., Stormwater Master Plan, Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan) to ensure integration into the Comprehensive Plan framework.

Key updates:

- A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) scope was developed.
- The City will not issue a public RFP due to an existing pre-qualified consultant list.
- Seven consultants were evaluated; three firms emerged as leading candidates.
- Evaluation materials were distributed to Public Works and Development Services directors for input.
- Consultant selection is anticipated in the coming weeks.

Staff emphasized that cross-departmental collaboration will be critical to avoid the plan becoming a non-implemented document.

6.b. Green Building Ordinance Evaluation

The Board discussed the effectiveness of the City's Green Building Ordinance following its three-year evaluation period.

Key discussion points:

- Two qualifying projects have proceeded under the ordinance.
- Preliminary analysis suggests limited greenhouse gas reduction impact at the citywide scale.
- LEED certification does not necessarily equate to substantial emissions

reductions.

- The ordinance may not be achieving meaningful mitigation outcomes.
- Lowering the square footage threshold was discussed as a potential revision to increase impact.

The Board agreed that:

- Staff will provide technical building performance data and mitigation context.
- Board members will collaborate on drafting a recommendation memorandum for consideration at a future meeting.

6.c. Freebee

The Board revisited discussion regarding Freebee transit services.

Topics discussed:

- Transition from GEM vehicles to Volkswagen ID Buzz electric vehicles.
- Increased passenger capacity and improved weather protection.
- Potential service expansion to improve connectivity between the Tri-Rail station and Atlantic Avenue.
- Importance of reliable transit alternatives to support downtown parking demand-based pricing.
- Workforce mobility and economic development considerations.

Action Items:

- Catherine Toms will draft a memorandum supporting vehicle transition and potential route enhancements.
- Staff will invite a Freebee representative to attend the March meeting.

6.d. Educational Topics

6.d.i. DBHS Lecture

The Board discussed potential Earth Month programming.

Proposed activities:

- Partnership with Audubon Everglades for a native plant and bird habitat lecture.
- Potential plant raffle.
- Beach cleanup event in collaboration with The Sandoway Discovery Center.
- Potential coordination with Community Greening for tree giveaways (to support Tree City USA designation).
- Possible collaboration with the Delray Beach Historical Society.

A special public meeting was scheduled for:

March 3, 2026 at 3:00 PM (SOC Conference Room)

Purpose: Planning Earth Month programming.

Staff confirmed that properly noticed public meetings outside the regular monthly meeting are permissible.

6.e. Legislative Topics (See OSAR Report)

The Board reviewed several state legislative proposals, including:

- Net-zero policy restrictions (HB 1217 / SB 1628)
- Disaster-related land use constraints (SB 180)
- Transit-Oriented Development legislation
- Brownfield redevelopment encouragement
- Coastal resilience and nature-based methods legislation
- Plastic straw regulatory limitations

Key themes discussed:

- Concern regarding state preemption of local sustainability authority.
- Support for legislation recognizing nature-based coastal resilience solutions (e.g., mangroves, living seawalls).
- Discussion of science-based product standards for plastic alternatives.
- Concern about limitations on local site-specific land use planning authority.

No formal action was taken. Staff noted that timing may limit legislative advocacy this session.

7. New Business

No new business items were formally introduced.

8. Board Comments

Board members discussed:

- The need for additional Board member recruitment.
- Encouraging qualified applicants to engage with Commissioners.
- Importance of expanding community outreach.

No formal motions were made.

9. Staff Comments

Staff provided updates on several initiatives:

Intern Projects (Brendan Buchanan)

- Creation of a master GIS transit mobility layer integrating Palm Tran routes, bike/pedestrian infrastructure, and parking data.
- Real-time parking data mapping potential to support demand-based pricing.
- Overhaul of tree canopy GIS dashboard to include:
 - o Four years of tree planting data
 - o Community Greening installations
 - o Tree giveaway distributions
 - o Species tracking and canopy coverage mapping

Tree Program

- 150 of 400 trees distributed under current program cycle.
- Fruit tree expansion responding to community preference in lower canopy areas.

LEED for Cities

- City currently qualifies for Silver (50 points).
- Staff pursuing Gold (60+) and exploring potential for 70+ points.
- Internal stakeholder workshop scheduled to identify additional credits.

EV Charging Infrastructure

- Exploration of monetizing City-owned EV chargers.
- Proposed rate: approximately \$0.41/kWh to cover operational costs and generate modest reinvestment revenue.
- Potential annual revenue per charger estimated at ~\$1,200 under high utilization.
- Long-term goal of transitioning away from current FPL-owned chargers to City-controlled infrastructure.
- Discussion of renter access challenges and potential future code amendments.

Budget Update

- FY27 will implement a zero-based budgeting process.

- Sustainability program funding, including the tree program, will require justification.

Attachments: [GIAB Staff Report - 2026-02-19.pdf](#)

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:07 AM