

# City of Delray Beach

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



## **Minutes - Draft**

**Thursday, December 19, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**SOC Conference Room**

**Green Implementation Advancement Board**

## 1. Call to Order

Evan Orellana called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

## 2. Roll Call

**Present** 5 - Evan Orellana, Heather Seaman, Vinnie Ardillo, Melanie Stefanovic, and Adam Jones

## 3. Approval of Agenda

**A motion was made by Stefanovic, seconded by Seaman, that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Orellana, Seaman, Ardillo, Stefanovic, and Jones

## 4. Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Seaman, seconded by Stefanovic, that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Orellana, Seaman, Ardillo, Stefanovic, and Jones

**Attachments:** [GIAB Meeting Minutes - 2024-11-21-draft.pdf](#)

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

No public present

## 6. Old Business

### 6.a. Climate Action Plan

#### 6.a.1 Green Building Ordinance Memo

The group looked over the memo, and there were no additional comments.

**Attachments:** [Memo GBO GHG 112624.docx](#)

Melanie motioned to finalize, all were in favor

Kent noted that it's a long memo, and time constraints on the commissioners to read a lengthy memo.

However, it's a specific memo for combatting misinformation and providing actionable tasks.

**A motion was made by Stefanovic, seconded by Seaman, that this Advisory Board Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Orellana, Seaman, Ardillo, Stefanovic, and Jones

### 6.b. Educational Initiatives

6.b.1 EP3 Memo

Memo reviewed and discussed. Melanie suggested adding a sentence to the end of the 1st paragraph, eg M-D county just added these requirements to their purchasing process, so there is precedence. Board agreed memo is ready otherwise, Evan will sign it electronically and it will be sent to the commission without further delay

Kent will text Evan to confirm that he has sent the memo on letterhead to be electronically signed

Vinnie motioned to finalize memo, Melanie seconded, all were in favor

**Attachments:** [Memo EP3 Draft 122124.docx](#)

**A motion was made by Ardillo, seconded by Stefanovic, that this Advisory Board Agenda Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Orellana, Seaman, Ardillo, Stefanovic, and Jones

## 6.c. Legislative Issues

Senator Berman refiled water quality bill regarding healthy beaches. Green infrastructure bill regarding mangroves probably will be refiled. Melanie stated that in the Climate Action Plan, Green Infrastructure section could include support of legislation

Include this topic under New Business for next meeting.

Evan encouraged board involvement behind legislative support for healthy beaches and alert system. Kent emailed the city manager about this bill.

Mangrove bill that defines mangroves as alternative to sea walls. Board and Kent expect that the bill will be refiled because mangroves are more cost efficient and effective infrastructure (carbon sink, higher than sea wall, cheaper). Kent suggested continuing this as an agenda item. Green infrastructure as a "New Business" item on next meeting's agenda

Evan anticipates plastic bills on both sides, to increase and weaken the preemption.

## 7. New Business

Add "CAP-Green Infrastructure" to New Business on Next Agenda

-specific topic will include support of legislation.

Add "CAP Workgroups" to New Business on Next Agenda

## 8. Board Comments

Evan mentioned Clean Waterways bill, includes Testing of Bathing Waters  
Melanie suggested that Delray could replace fireworks with drone shows.  
Local examples cited was Boynton Beach. Evan added that Deerfield  
Beach also had a drone show in lieu of fireworks.

A Future Memo to compare the cost of drones VS fireworks was  
suggested.

Adam mentioned it might take time to work through, but possibly target  
New Years 2026?

Next Agenda- get info for discussion, invite other city virtually for future  
discussion

Melanie asked about drone show for 4th of July. Discussion points:  
comparable costs, no trash, no clean up, quieter, alleviates safety issues.  
Suggestion to draft a memo. Suggestion to propose a test case on New  
Year's Eve 2026. Suggestion to include this as an agenda item next month,  
and inviting Parks and Rec as well as folks from other cities who have held  
successful drone shows to advise.

## 9. Staff Comments

Kent recalled the recent Climate Change Compact Summit in Key West. Some  
of the notable session topics:

The Army Corps of Engineers, SFWMD, and Broward County discussed flood  
system interconnects and local tie ins, such as Lake Ida.

A presentation by the National Weather Service showed predictions based on  
shifts in things like the Bermuda High, which may lead to a decrease in  
hurricanes hitting southeast Florida, while more hit the gulf coast.  
University of Miami presented on corals from a Central American nation, which  
were relocated to Florida, and hybridized with local genotypes. The coral is  
growing and could potentially be more resilient.

Coral can dissipate wave energy, and planting at appropriate depth, far enough  
out, and fostering favorable conditions (e.g. keeping nutrients out the water) can  
augment the coral systems. It would require a long-term effort - multiple  
decades. Generally, the discussion of big, risky ideas indicates the severity of  
the  
climate warming situation.

Vinnie asked if there is a permitting process for corals. Yes, generally there has

to be testing first to prove methods and sites are conducive to growth, and outplantings started in Delray only recently. There may be more outplantings in January.

A marketing presentation closed out the summit. It's in our hands whether we want to make climate issues relevant to voters. Phrasing and word choices that make things personal help voters understand the impact of climate change on them. Research shows that "climate" is a motivating and important term. "Changing climate" is sometimes better received. Marketing efforts with specific terminology can help voters understand the connection between what they're experiencing and changing climate and what can be done. Messaging that is populist is effective because wealthier echelons are less impacted: lean into the unfairness experienced by the majority of people, emphasize losses (health, economic, quality of life). Final marketing tip: talk like a human. What to say: pollution, overheating, extreme weather, costing people too much, hottest year on record.

Vinnie asked Kent to speak to workshops. Kent shared draft of a plan for CAP workgroups and considerations for having department partners and organizations that are on the workgroups as presenters at workshops.  
New Business agenda item: CAP workgroups  
CAP Workgroup organizing emails are being prepared.

**Present** 5 - Evan Orellana, Heather Seaman, Vinnie Ardillo, Melanie Stefanovic, and Adam Jones

**Attachments:** [GIAB Staff Rpt 2024-12-19.docx](#)

## 10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Seaman, seconded by Ardillo to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 1045

**This was approved.**