

**GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**9:00AM – 11:00AM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hal Stern, Chairperson  
Sarah Lucas, Vice-Chairperson  
Lisa Shaheen, Second Vice-Chairperson  
Christina Hammond  
Susan Lebrun  
Maren Graben

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Shaynaz Malleck

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelly Brandon, Assistant City Attorney  
Molly Daly, Assistant Sustainability Planner  
Kent Edwards, Sustainability Officer  
Brian Ruscher, Transportation Planner  
Duncan Tavares, Assistant City Manager

**GUESTS/OTHERS:**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Hal Stern at 9:01am. Information was provided pursuant to Executive Orders 20-69 and 20-246 about holding Advisory Board meetings virtually.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted by staff.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda. Said motion was seconded by Lisa Shaheen and the motion was passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Lisa Shaheen made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Said motion was seconded by Sarah Lucas and the motion was passed unanimously.

**5. Public Comments**

None

**6. Discussion of Monthly Staff Report**

Kent Edwards said that the page numbers will be corrected and included in the minutes. Hal Stern inquired if Board members could see the RFP for years two through five of the tree planting programs, and staff answered they will check with the Purchasing department. Kent Edwards added that the contract for the first year of tree planting is coming to a close and is looking to encumber money this year and carry it over.

Duncan Tavares introduced himself, spoke about his support for the Board and discussed his previous experience at the Town of Surfside while working on sustainability and resilience projects.

Lisa Shaheen asked for an update on the bills about the polystyrene preemption, and Kent Edwards responded that he would email the information. Sarah Lucas commented that WLRN, a local media organization, has been doing a series on the Florida's legislative session and approach on preemptions.

Susan Lebrun stated that she met with Representative Mike Caruso about the polystyrene preemption, and he seemed receptive to the issue at the time. Kelly Brandon said that Board members can contact representatives as community members, but as the Board it would need to go to City Commission.

Kent Edwards said he has a coming meeting with the Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs and the City's lobbyist. Susan Lebrun encouraged Board members to sign up for emails from the Florida League of Cities.

Maren Graben joined the meeting at this time.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Discussion on City Comprehensive Plan**

Hal Stern said he has taken time to read both the Comprehensive Plan and the Data, Inventory and Analysis for both the Conservation, Sustainability and Resilience and the Coastal Management elements. Kelly Brandon clarified that the plan are the goals and priorities that the City has provided to the State, and the plan is implemented over a 20-year time frame. Adopting ordinances will need to be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and when development projects are under review, they refer to the plan since they are required to be in line with it.

Kent Edwards said that the Comprehensive Plan is incorporated into the City's land development regulations, so policies and objectives that are listed in there must be followed.

Hal Stern would like recommendation from the Board to reference policies in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Hal advocated that they City, in addition to the Advisory Board Manual and Ethics Training, that boards are required to read the City's comprehensive plan.

Hal Stern said that the City completed a greenhouse gas inventory and referred to Policy CSR 1.2.1. which states that within two years of completing a greenhouse gas inventory, the City will establish appropriate reduction targets in the inventory and continue with updates every (five) 5 years thereafter.

### **b. Green Board Annual Report**

Sarah Lucas supports referring to the Comprehensive Plan, which may help further the Board's agenda. Sarah also asked the Board to look at the focus of the annual report and suggested that it document the work that has been done over the last calendar year, incorporate references to the Comprehensive Plan, and outline

key areas where the Board will focus on in the upcoming year, which would include recommendations.

Lisa Shaheen expressed interest in the Board scheduling a workshop for the annual report and consensus was given by other Board members. Staff will coordinate with the Board to schedule this in two weeks.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Follow up discussion on SWA Recycling Presentation**

Hal Stern discussed the email forwarded to Board members, which conflicts with the presentation SWA gave at the last meeting.

Kent Edwards said that their waste to energy operation emphasizes that their driving force behind their business policies is that they need fuel from the waste stream and cash flow from Florida Power & Light for the energy they create.

Hal Stern said CSR 6.2.1 states that the City will explore opportunities with the Solid Waste Authority and its waste hauler to do a composting program.

Susan Lebrun asked if the City could negotiate this into the next contract, and staff responded that it could come at a cost to the City and there might not be an incentive to do so.

Kent Edwards said that the County established the Special Act that gave Solid Waste Authority ownership over material that is on the curb.

Lisa Shaheen asked about the composting pilot program that the City previously worked on, and Molly Daly responded that the contact with the Green Market did not get back with her to continue the project and that there is no longer funds budgeted for it this fiscal year. WiseTribe surveyed the Green Market to find out how many composting bins would be needed and worked with vendors on composting, but staff is unaware if WiseTribe has continued this during the pandemic.

Hal Stern asked if staff would contact other cities in Palm Beach County and to reach out through the Sustainability Directors Network to ask if there are municipalities who have composting programs or counties that may have experience with this throughout the state. If composting and commercial recycling are too difficult, Hal Stern suggested that we look at their feasibility and at enhancing residential recycling. Hal Stern also asked staff for reports from SWA on residential recycling rates.

Kent Edwards said that recycling aluminum may be worth pursuing for businesses.

Lisa Shaheen supports looking further into this topic and said that waste is a problem, and that they can bring awareness to the community about these issues.

## **9. Comments by Board Members**

Hal Stern said that the draft of the green building ordinance would not pertain to renovations, and asked staff if this was a discussion point for staff. Kent Edwards responded that staff had

discussed this and that it would be difficult to apply to historical buildings and other cities had not included renovations in their ordinances. Kelly Brandon added that staff discussed encouraging renovations of historical buildings instead of opting for new buildings, since it has its own environmental benefits to it.

In the case of an addition being built, Hal also asked if the 5,000 square foot threshold would apply to the new addition or the existing building, and staff responded that it would be the addition only.

Sarah Lucas asked if there has been any pushback about this ordinance yet and how to alleviate that, and Kent Edwards answered that he has not heard any external comments, but he has been addressing points that have come up by staff.

Lisa Shaheen asked if the Board should be recommending that when City buildings undergo renovations that they should update them according to LEED standards, and Hal Stern responded that this may be referenced in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Board members discussed greening City buildings, including using LED lights, so the City is leading by example.

Hal Stern suggested the Board reintroduces their early recommendation to amend Ordinance 10-19 (Plastic Straw Ban) to include plastic stirrers, cocktail picks and cutlery, and Susan Lebrun shared concerns for doing it at this time. Lisa Shaheen agrees, but questioned if they wait if there is going to be another preemption. Hal Stern said that when the Plastic Straw Ban was adopted, businesses were given six months to adapt to the change and the amendment could be timed to take effect after the pandemic.

Kelly Brandon suggested adding this topic to next month's agenda, to which the Board gave consensus.

## **10. Comments by Staff**

Kent Edwards said that April is going to be a big month for outreach for sustainability. The month of April is Water Conservation Month, there is Arbor Day and Earth Day, a presentation to the City Commission, and the City is participating in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. This information will be shared with the Board.

Molly Daly added that staff has been very busy while working on the recertification of the Florida Green Building Coalition's Local Government Standard. Many departments are collaborating to help complete it and communication has improved. This information and the checklist of the points the City is pursuing will be posted on the City's website.

## **11. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sarah Lucas and seconded by Susan Lebrun. Said motion passed unanimously and Hal Stern declared the meeting adjourned at 10:56am.