

City of Delray Beach

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



Minutes - Draft

Thursday, February 20, 2025

09:00 AM

SOC Conference Room

Green Implementation Advancement Board

1. Call to Order

Evan Orellana called the meeting to order at 9:02 am

2. Roll Call

Present 4 - Evan Orellana, Heather Seaman, Melanie Stefanovic, and Adam Jones

Absent 1 - Vinnie Ardillo

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Yes: 4 - Orellana, Seaman, Stefanovic, and Jones

Absent: 1 - Ardillo

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: 4 - Orellana, Seaman, Stefanovic, and Jones

Absent: 1 - Ardillo

Attachments: [GIAB Meeting Minutes - 2025-01-16-draft.pdf](#)

5. Public Comments on Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

No public present

6. Old Business

6.a. Climate Action Plan

6.a.i. Climate Action Plan Workgroups

- Kent Edwards provides an update on the Climate Action Program, including five workgroup meetings on sections related to water, waste, transportation, green infrastructure, and energy.
- There was an emphasis on community input through public outreach meetings and social media.
- Plans for a public outreach webinar this coming Friday and a presentation in April to share the first draft of the Climate Action Plan.
- Kent Edwards discusses the importance of community input and the positive responses received from the climate action survey.

- Evan Orellana highlights the need for education and transparency in addressing climate resilience and city longevity.
- Discussion on the challenges of misinformation and the importance of informed public engagement.

6.b. Educational Initiatives

6.b.i. GIAB Annual Report to Commission

- Kent Edwards played the video of the GIAB Annual Report presentation to Commission from Tuesday evening.
- He noted that the brief follow-up comments from the commissioners also showed a lot of support for the points made in the presentation.
- Kent Edwards mentioned that the presentation covered pretty much all the key priorities that the GIAB board had discussed, plus some additional items. He said it was good timing with the issues that were mentioned.
- Overall, Kent Edwards felt the presentation was well received and aligned with the priorities and feedback the GIAB board had been working on.
- He emphasized the importance of having a focused message and repeating it to help educate the public.

6.b.ii Earth Month

- Kent Edwards mentioned reaching out to a lot of partners and department staff to get events set up for Earth Month.
- Kent suggested doing more videos rather than trying to organize in-person events, as he thinks they can reach a larger audience by recording and posting the videos.
- Some of the video topics he proposed were: Coral restoration, Water quality, A presentation on microplastics and their effects, to reinforce the importance of reducing and recycling
- Kent also mentioned working with the Public Works department and the Historical Society to do a write-up on the history of development around Lake Ida, as it used to be the edge of the Everglades.
- Chris Chitester proposes ideas for Earth Month events, including a sustainability scavenger hunt and a climate "MythBusters" event or presentation.
- Evan Orellana suggests using educational materials from the Reef

Institute and other partners.

- Melanie Stefanovic offered the Cocoplum Nature School for hosting an event
- Discussion on the importance of engaging the community and addressing common climate myths.

6.c. Legislative Issues

A motion for recommendation to that the City of Delray beach lobbyist:

Support - SB50, HB371, SB62, HB73, SB156

Oppose - HB565

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

Yes: 4 - Orellana, Seaman, Stefanovic, and Jones

Absent: 1 - Ardillo

6.c.i. Green Infrastructure, SB50, HB371

- Kent Edwards explained that SB50 and HB 371 focus on coastal resilience
- The bills have added language that includes coral reefs.

6.c.ii. Green Building Initiative, SB62

- Kent Edwards explained that SB62 would provide a tax incentive for cities that adopt a Green Building requirement.
- Kent explains that legislative session is ending May 2nd.
- This discussion resulted in a motion to recommend lobbyist support/oppose specific bills during the meeting because there may not be enough members available for quorum in March, and an April motion would be too late.
- Evan Orellana mentioned SB 50 and HB 371 as promising bills focusing on green infrastructure and coral reef restoration.
- Evan Orellana pointed out that The Safe Waterways Act would be voted on again this year. This is supported by the board.
- Evan Orellana brought up HB565 regarding plastic preemption which the board opposed. This bill would preempt local regulations on auxiliary containers, potentially limiting local governments' ability to regulate single-use plastics and other disposable containers
- Evan asks each board member if they approve a motion to recommended lobbyist support HB73 & SB156 and oppose HB565. All present members responded "Aye".

7. New Business

No new business

Add "City Arborist Memo" to New Business for next meeting.

8. Board Comments

No Board comments

9. Staff Comments

- Kent Edwards provides an update on the tree program, including the tree drop-off program and plans for a tree giveaway.
- Discussion on the green building ordinance and the need for better access to energy usage data.
- Plans for a webinar on greenhouse gas benchmarking and the importance of community support for environmental initiatives.
- Chris Chitester provides an update on the development of the dashboard, including the scope of work and the need for reliable data sources.
- There was a discussion on the challenges of obtaining data from various departments and the importance of accurate reporting.
- Kent Edwards discusses the impact of federal funding delays and the importance of state and local support for environmental initiatives.
- There was a discussion on the potential benefits of LEED certification and the possibility of tax incentives for green buildings through SB62.
- The group discussed plans for outreach to state representatives and the importance of community support for environmental policies.
- Evan Orellana noted there is time left before the scheduled end of meeting, and opens the floor for final comments and questions.
- Discussion on the importance of continued outreach and education to address climate resilience and environmental issues.
- Plans for future meetings and events to support the Climate Action Plan and other environmental initiatives.

Transportation Challenges and Solutions

- Kent Edwards discusses the significant issue of transportation, mentioning various agencies and plans, including the county-wide transportation master plan and pedestrian projects along Delray and Germantown Roads.

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- Kent highlights the need for solutions that address rush hour congestion, parking, and greenhouse gas reduction, suggesting that pedestrian paths alone are insufficient.
 - He proposes improving public transportation options, such as making the Tri-Rail nicer and integrating it with a shuttle bus system, especially for the Southwest neighborhood.
 - Kent suggests an elevated crossing over I-95 and a rail station near Catherine Strong Park and the Community Orchard, despite the financial challenges.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Concerns

- Evan Orellana shares his personal experience of feeling unsafe biking across Atlantic Avenue due to heavy traffic and concrete barriers.
- There was mention of an idea to build a gondola from the TRI-Rail station to a parking garage.
- Evan elaborates on the historical use of gondolas and the presence of a historic train station in Boca, suggesting that such transportation methods could be revived.
- Kent emphasizes the importance of walkability and bikeability in the Climate Action Plan, noting that transportation is a major generator of greenhouse gases.

Challenges of Transportation in Florida

- Evan and Chris discuss the difficulties of tackling transportation issues in Florida, particularly the need for better connectivity between metropolitan areas and transportation hubs.
- Evan mentions the long-standing issue of Tri-Rail not having a stop in Martin County, highlighting the lack of support for public transportation.
- Chris Chitester praises the convenience and affordability of the Tri-Rail, especially for travel to Miami.
- Kent and Chris discuss the effectiveness of the MIA mover and metro systems in Miami, noting their efficiency and ease of use.

Personal Transportation Experiences

- Evan shares his background of not owning a car in the past in another state, contrasting it with the reliance on cars in Florida.
- Kent and Evan discuss the importance of shuttles and free bus services, with Kent mentioning studies and opportunities for such services.
- The conversation touches on the creative solutions of a well-lit and

heavily decorated cyclist who rides with multiple lights and flags,
adding a humorous note to the discussion

Attachments: [GIAB Staff Report - 2025-02-20.docx](#)

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

A motion was made by Stefanovic, seconded by Seaman, that this be approved.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Orellana, Seaman, Stefanovic, and Jones

Absent: 1 - Ardillo