

# **City of Delray Beach**

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



## **Minutes - Draft**

**Thursday, October 16, 2025**

**09:00 AM**

**SOC Lobby Conference Room**

**Green Implementation Advancement Board**

## 1. Call to Order

Chair Evan Orellana called the meeting of the Green Implementation Advancement Board (GIAB) to order at 9:04 AM

## 2. Roll Call

Evan Orellana, Chair  
Vinnie Ardillo, Member  
Maddie Rieger, Presenter (KindDesigns)  
Chris Chitester, Board Liaison / Assistant City Attorney  
David Glover, Senior Landscape Planner  
Rolland Bogacz, Planner / Certified Arborist  
Adam Jones, Member  
Catherine Toms, Member  
William Bennett, Member

**Present** 4 - Evan Orellana, Vinnie Ardillo, Adam Jones, and Catherine Toms

**Absent** 1 - Max Zengage

## 3. Approval of Agenda

This was approved.

## 4. Approval of Minutes

This was approved.

**Attachments:** [GIAB Meeting Minutes - 2025-08-21-draft.pdf](#)

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

No public comments were presented.

## 6. Presentations

### 6.a. Certified Arborist overview

**Presenters:** David Glover (Senior Landscape Planner) and Rolland Bogacz (Planner/Certified Arborist)

The presentation provided an in-depth overview of arboriculture as a subdiscipline of horticulture, detailing the qualifications, responsibilities, and daily tasks of an ISA Certified Arborist. Key discussion points included:

- Certification requirements, including three years of experience and a 200-question exam, along with adherence to the ISA Code of Ethics and continuing education requirements.
- Arborist roles: diagnosing diseases, pruning, risk assessment, emergency tree care, and public education
- Discussion of the City's tree mitigation and replacement process, including DBH calculations, in-lieu fee structures, and the role of the Tree Trust Fund
- Clarifications on legal limitations: city arborists cannot provide assessments on private property or development sites; they review reports prepared by certified third-party arborists

- Public education initiatives were discussed, such as “Right Tree, Right Place” campaigns and improved outreach to ensure residents properly plant and care for distributed trees
- Ongoing challenges from state laws, including those allowing tree removal on residential properties without mitigation if deemed hazardous, and new restrictions on artificial turf regulation
- Board members discussed concerns regarding large canopy tree loss, trust fund funding mechanisms, and potential policy changes. Staff provided context on mitigation ratios, canopy replacement calculations, and comparative approaches from other municipalities

## **6.b. Living Seawalls by KindDesigns**

Presenter: Maddie Rieger, KindDesigns

Ms. Rieger introduced Living Sea Walls, an innovative coastal resilience solution using 3D-printed, biomimetic concrete panels to replace or retrofit traditional seawalls. Key points:

- Living Sea Walls mimic natural habitats (e.g., mangrove roots) to reduce wave energy by up to 50%, improve water quality, and support biodiversity
- Panels are customizable, structurally equivalent to concrete, and use pH-neutral cementitious materials that support marine life.
- Applications include new construction, retrofits, and enhancements through tiles and pile jackets, with significantly faster permitting and installation times
- Ecological benefits include increased oyster settlement, improved water clarity, and enhanced marine biodiversity. Partnerships include ongoing studies with FIU and the Billion Oyster Project
- Incentives: Up to 40% permit fee rebates in some jurisdictions; elimination of riprap requirements; LEED and WEDG credit eligibility
- Board members asked questions about settlement rates, material composition, permitting processes, and potential collaboration opportunities in Palm Beach County

## **7. Old Business**

### **7.a. Climate Action Plan**

Staff and board members discussed the ongoing development of the City’s Climate Action Plan, with emphasis on integrating resilience infrastructure like living shorelines and enhanced tree canopy initiatives

### **7.b. Educational Topics**

#### **7.b.1. Climate and Culture**

Plans were discussed to coordinate an educational event, “Climate and Conversations,” during the December First Friday Art Walk, pending confirmation from Arts Warehouse

### **7.c. Legislative Topics**

#### **7.c.1. SB180**

The Board discussed Florida Senate Bill SB 180, with staff reporting that the City has joined a lawsuit challenging portions of the bill. Concerns were raised about Sections 18 and 28, which may severely limit municipal authority to adopt new policies deemed “burdensome”

## 8. New Business

### 8.a. Tree Planting Program memo

Staff updated the board on the Tree Trust Fund and the decision to redirect the remaining \$93,000 balance toward a Tree Drop-Off Program distributing 15-gallon native shade trees and new 7-gallon fruit trees to residents. This replaces the city-led planting programs for FY2025 while new funding mechanisms are explored

## 9. Board Comments

Board members expressed support for ongoing canopy restoration efforts and discussed potential legislative advocacy, funding diversification, and improved public engagement strategies

## 10. Staff Comments

Staff reiterated the challenges posed by state preemption laws, funding instability for canopy programs, and the importance of proactive climate resilience planning

Attachments: [GIAB Staff Report - 2025-10-16.pdf](#)

## 11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Evan Orellana adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:52 AM