

**GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019
SWINTON OPERATION COMPLEX BOARD ROOM
9:00AM – 11:00AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hal Stern (attendance by videoconference)
Lisa Shaheen
Sarah Lucas
Susan Lebrun

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christina Hammond
Daniel Stepner
Sandy Trento

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin, Sustainability Officer
Molly Daly, Sustainability Intern

GUESTS/OTHERS:

None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Hal Stern at 9:10am.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Hal Stern.

3. Approval of Agenda

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda of August 15, 2019, seconded by Susan Lebrun. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 18, 2019 with amendment, seconded by Susan Lebrun. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Old Business

a. Ordinances on Reducing Plastics in Delray Beach

Ana Puszkin-Chevlin reiterated to the Board that staff submitted a memorandum to the City Manager's Office to support drafting an ordinance similar to the Town of Palm

Beach's restrictions on single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam containers. However, the Town of Palm Beach has since received a letter from the Florida Retail Federation declaring that placing restrictions these items is against Florida statute. To avoid litigation challenges, City staff is looking into strategies to reduce single-use plastic products that have not been previously preempted by the State of Florida.

Hal Stern stated that even though these preemptions prevent a citywide ban on single-use plastic bags and polystyrene containers, the City can still regulate these items on City property, which would include businesses that are on the sidewalk. Since Delray Beach has restaurants that operate on sidewalks, a ban on City property would help in reducing plastic bags and polystyrene containers. This topic was opened for discussion and concerns were raised about if this ban would put too much of a burden on businesses downtown.

Susan Lebrun suggested that the City focuses on regulating single-use plastic products that have not already been preempted by the State of Florida. Hal Stern agrees with this idea and encourages the City to move swiftly on this issue.

Ana Puszkin-Chevlin said that it would be beneficial to contact the State of Florida and encourage legislators to repeal the preemption. Lisa Shaheen agreed with this notion and stated that many businesses and community members have expressed support for reducing single-use plastics during the Plastic Planet event hosted in April this year.

Board members recommend staff writes a resolution to declare the City's opinion on this issue. Sarah Lucas made the following motion:

“For the Green Board to recommend the City Commission communicates through resolution or open letter to the governor, legislature and local representatives that the City of Delray Beach considers the regulation of single-use plastics an issue of local control due to the detrimental impacts on the local environment. Therefore, the City encourages the State to repeal the preemption of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene.”

Lisa Shaheen seconded said motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Board members discussed additional strategies, such as placing notices on grocery stores that displays whether the business provides single-use plastic bags or offers more environmentally friendly options. This idea was viewed as controversial but may be an idea the City should discuss with the Public Information Officer to assess if a public relations campaign would help prevent negative feedback.

Susan Lebrun made a motion for the City to revise the memorandum to move forward on cutlery and all items that are not preempted by the legislature as quickly as possible. Said motion was seconded by Lisa Shaheen and it was passed unanimously.

b. Green Business Certification Program

Molly Daly informed Board members that the Downtown Development Authority has provided a list of 10 local businesses that staff should contact and get their feedback on the program. Staff will move forward with this step once the Assistant City Manager approves of the program criteria. In addition, staff will be presenting this program to the Chamber of Commerce during an upcoming meeting and asked if any Board members are able to attend.

c. Development of Tree Canopy Program

Staff has been in contact with Palm Beach County and the University of Florida IFAS Extension Office to host an educational event and live tree giveaway in Delray Beach in the upcoming months. Staff also discussed the recent Senate Bill 1159 that allows homeowners to remove trees on their property, regardless of local regulations, if they submit a letter from a certified arborist validating the removal of the tree. It is not likely that this bill will impact the Tree Fund, but it may pose an issue with heritage tree protections in the future.

Ana Puszkin-Chevlin informed Board members that developing this program has taken longer than expected due to the limited amount of staff time and resources available. Lisa Shaheen stated that it may be helpful to put together a working group with stakeholders who can contribute to this project. Hal Stern stated that there are grants available regularly that can support tree planting programs in Delray Beach. If the City receives a grant, then staff will have more capabilities and resources available for hosting tree planting events in the community.

d. HOA Outreach

Updates were given to Board members regarding outreach to homeowners' associations in Delray Beach. Staff will be sending letters to HOAs that do not have emails listed.

Hal Stern asked staff if the Public Information Officer has a way to reach out to more groups in the community. Staff informed the Board that they met working with the new Public Information Officer to post on social media about sustainability topics. Information has since been posted about the Textile Recycling Bin program and the Green Business Certification Program.

e. Climate and Art Event

A copy of the logo for the event and the final schedule to Board members. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin informed Board members that the Advisory Board for the Downtown Development Authority did not support the mural by Renda Writer due to controversy about climate change and sea level rise. Approval by the Historical Preservation Board is required to move forward with the mural.

Board members asked staff how they can help with the event, and Ana Puszkin-Chevlin let Board members know that their presence and assistance with the closing event would be helpful.

f. Coastal Resilience Partnership – Community Vulnerability Assessment

Ana Puszkin-Chevlin stated that the partners are meeting today, and she will receive updates on the latest draft of the Interlocal Agreement. This document will be sent to the City attorney and Assistant City Manager for review.

g. Green Building Ordinance

Staff informed Board members that there are no updates on this at the time. Susan Lebrun informed Board members that in *Always Delray* Policy CSR 7.1.1 a paragraph was removed that referred to LEED certifications. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin stated that this is most likely to allow more flexibility when implement green building standards so that the City is not restricted to only LEED certifications and can choose from other standards that may be more applicable.

7. New Business

a. Development of Strategic Plan

Ana Puszkin-Chevlin stated that a great portion of staff time has been dedicated to producing a 5-year Sustainability Strategic Plan. Staff is working on the second draft of this document and will provide Board members a copy for their feedback shortly.

b. Orkids Program at Atlantic High School

Staff received a letter from Atlantic High School requesting assistance with funding for the Orkids Program. The City was unable to assist, but funders were found to continue this program.

c. FEECA letter

Every 5 years the Public Services Committee sets standards for energy conservation that applies to utilities in Florida. A letter was drafted by multiple municipalities asking the Public Services Committee to ask for better energy efficiency standards and staff sent this letter to the City Manager's Office for consideration. However, Florida Power & Light requested that the City of Delray Beach not send this letter.

d. 2019 Water Conservation Education Program

City staff applied for a grant to help fund and continue Utilities' Water Conservation Program at local elementary schools. This program is implemented by Tinker Water Conservation and has been successful in its first year. A report with the program's results

is being drafted and will be sent to Board members when it is received. Board members encouraged staff to post the results of the program on social media.

8. Comments by Board Members

Hal Stern stated that he is concerned with Board member attendance and will contact members who are not in attendance today.

9. Comments by Staff

None

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sarah Lucas and seconded by Lisa Shaheen. Said motion passed unanimously and Lisa Shaheen declared the meeting adjourned at 11:08am.