

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING
9:00AM – 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hal Stern, Chairperson
Sarah Lucas, Vice-Chairperson
Lisa Shaheen
Maren Graben
Shaynaz Malleck

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christina Hammond
Susan Lebrun, Second Vice-Chairperson

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS/OTHERS:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Hal Stern at 9:04am. 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 passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Shaheen made a motion to approve the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Said motion was seconded by Shaynaz Malleck and the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

None

6. City Attorney Presentation

Kelly Brandon conducted a legal orientation presentation to Board members which included information on Public Records Law, Sunshine Law, meeting requirements, ethics and financial disclosure. With the upcoming election, Sarah Lucas asked if more than one board member attends a campaign event with candidates and a question is asked about sustainability if there would be any issues with the Sunshine Law, and Kelly Brandon responded that she would look into this and provide guidance for the board.

7. Old Business

a. Polystyrene and Other Plastic -Related Initiatives

i. Memo to Commissioners Regarding State Preemptions

The City's lobbyist will receive this information, and it is included on a list of the City's priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

ii. Amendment to Ordinance 10-19

Staff has not received direction from the City Commission on the Board's recommendation. Staff questioned if the timing of this recommendation could be problematic, given the pandemic and upcoming election. Hal Stern asked if Kelly Brandon has been made aware of this recommendation and if she sees any legal issues with the recommendation to prohibit single-use plastic stirrers and toothpicks and to require disposable cutlery to be made of biodegradable or compostable materials and to be provided upon request only.

Kelly Brandon responded that as long as we do not prohibit polystyrene, we would not violate the State's preemption.

iii. Resolutions 183-20 and 184-20 brought to City Commission on October 6, 2020

Kelly Brandon is working with the Purchasing Department to create language that will be included in contracts. Staff is also looking at how to effectively incorporate this policy into the purchasing process to ensure it applied consistently and legally.

b. Green Business Certification Program

A small virtual workshop was held in November – which was not unexpected given the many challenges businesses are facing during this time. The second public roll-out and outreach for this program is planned to begin in February 2021. The materials for the program – the certification checklists, instructions, guide, and information on sustainable food ware products – are available on the website (www.delraybeachfl.gov/greenbusiness). One business has submitted a certification checklist, and staff has reviewed it to assess the number of points and level of certification achieved.

Lisa Shaheen asked where staff is on a program for commercial recycling. Kent Edwards responded that he met with Laura Simons with the Downtown Development Authority to look at dumpsters and alley ways in the downtown area. There are three cardboard dumpsters, two are private and one is for general use. The dumpsters are located in areas that are very narrow, which will make this project difficult, but not impossible. Many factors will need to be considered and addressed in order to move forward.

Lisa Shaheen added that there might be opportunity to partner with someone located downtown who might be interested in picking up these recyclable materials and bringing them to the appropriate dumpster.

Sarah Lucas said that the Board has previously been interested in touring the Waste Management recycling facility and should try to do so again when it is possible.

c. Tree Canopy

i. Tree Planting

The contract with Community Greening is 6 months into the one-year agreement, and Community Greening has planted 900 trees out of the goal of 2,000 for the year. They are on track to meet the goal by the end of the year and have planned out the remaining tree giveaway events. Staff will send this update in addition to other announcements from Community Greening to the board.

The Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) is designing interpretive signs for recent tree planting sites at City parks, which would include information on the City's tree planting program, goal, and the benefits trees have on the community and environment.

ii. Tree Inventory

The selection committee was scheduled to meet in the beginning of December, but an unforeseen issue arose, and the meeting had to be rescheduled and is likely to occur in the next few weeks. OSAR is involved with the project, both as a selection committee member and a technical adviser to the selection committee and is working with additional staff to make progress.

iii. Tree Preservation Trust Fund

Staff has met with Purchasing to discuss funding for the remaining years for the City's tree planting goal (the City is currently on the first year of its five-year goal). The discussion included submitting an RFP for four years of tree planting 2,000 trees a year, for a total of 8,000 trees.

Any money from the Tree Trust Preservation Fund that is spent needs approval by OSAR. Hal Stern asked if money deposited into the fund is also reported to OSAR, and staff responded that during the next meeting we will invite Bill Wilsher to speak about this process and to review the City code (Landscape Development Regulations [4.6.16](#) and [4.6.19](#)).

Kelly Brandon said that the State of Florida passed a statute ([F.S. 163.045](#)) in 2019 in which trees can be removed from residential property if the property owner obtains documentation from an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture or a Florida licensed landscape architect that the tree presents a danger to persons or property.

d. Green Building Ordinance

Staff has completed the draft ordinance. Kent Edwards has begun contacting department heads about this ordinance and will plan to meet with relevant City staff in January 2021 to ensure they are aware of it, and so OSAR can answer

their questions. The draft ordinance will come before the Green Board and other pertinent advisory boards before going to the City Commission.

e. Coastal Resilience Partnership

The partnership and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) is being transferred back over to OSAR with Kent Edwards in the role of project lead.

On November 19, about 100 people participated in a public presentation between the project consultant and members of the partnership. A survey was distributed by each one of the participating municipalities, which asked questions about how climate change impacts residents' work and daily lives. The survey results showed that 13 percent of total respondents did not think climate change is an important issue. In addition, 23 percent of those who indicated they worked in Delray Beach, were not concerned by climate change and its effects.

Hal Stern shared that he has had conversations with people who share this view and Maren Graben expressed the importance of educating the public about these topics at an early age.

f. Homeowner and Condo Owner Outreach

Staff is working with Shaynaz on this project and will continue to do so as time allows. OSAR will also work with the City staff person in Neighborhood and Community Services who is in contact with HOAs.

Shaynaz shared that she has had some challenges in contacting HOAs but will continue to make progress.

Hal Stern mentioned that the Board had tried to organize a tour at Broken Sound, a community in Boca Raton that has composting and water conservation strategies at their golf course and club house, which also reduces their expenses on items such as fertilizer and utility bills.

Shaynaz said she is interested in learning more about Broken Sound since it may be useful when talking to other HOAs. Kent Edwards asked if there was information the Board would like staff and Shaynaz to use when contacting the HOAs, and consensus was given for Shaynaz to work with staff to draft a script and to contact HOAs.

Hal Stern said that we could create a working group of HOAs that are looking to enhance sustainability and share ideas amongst themselves. Kelly Brandon said that if this is a working group, she will need to discuss this further and come back with legal guidance.

Staff is willing to present to HOAs that are interested, and Hal Stern added that he sees how residents might find value in some topics and implement projects they are interested in.

g. EV Chargers

FPL is working on the installation of 10 EV chargers in two Delray Beach locations, per the agreement they signed with the City.

8. New Business

None

9. Comments by Board Members

Sarah Lucas commented that when there are vacancies on the Board, she thinks it is important to outreach to the public at large so the board can be more inclusive of diversity. In addition, Sarah expressed the importance of the Board to continue to focus on environmental justice issues – ones that may not always be on our radar and may not be addressed.

10. Comments by Staff

Kent Edwards said Jonathan Scott with Property Brothers did a video about solar panels, economic impacts and environmental justice issues. This video is available online. Kent and Molly are working towards becoming certified as Green Associates through US Green Building Coalition. An advertisement will be distributed soon and posted on social media about the solar co-op for Palm Beach County. Also, Kent asked if any of the Board members have any of the materials referenced in the 2009 Green Task Force Report.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sarah Lucas and seconded by Lisa Shaheen. Said motion passed unanimously and Hal Stern declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20am.