

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 20TH, 2021
REGULAR 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:

Molly Daly, Assistant Sustainability Planner
Kent Edwards, Sustainability Officer
Kelly Brandon, Assistant City
Casey LaRosa, Sustainability Intern

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Hal Stern at 9:00am. 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

Sarah Lucas amended that Maren Graben was present during the workshop, which needs to be changed on the minutes. Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for the workshop and to approve the minutes for the regular meeting. Said motion was seconded by Lisa Shaheen and the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Discussion of Monthly Staff Report

Kent Edwards stated that the Tree Trust Fund balance is higher than was reported previously, it is now 367,000 dollars. Around 350,000 dollars will be left after Community Greening contract.

Sarah Lucas asked for an update about the trees that were taken down near Linton. Kelly Brandon then replied that it is being handled on the code enforcement side.

Lisa Shaheen asked when taking down trees, is there any way to have a guideline of what trees would be the best fit when replacing the trees. For example, if an oak tree with a lot of canopy is taken down, another tree that has a lot of canopy should replace it.

Kent Edwards replied there is a section in the Land Development Regulations that guides the review of tree resources and it starts with the preservation of trees. There is a list, when developing a landscaping plan, of certain recommended trees and language that includes a preference for native trees. Review is done by Development Services.

Hal Stern said Commissioner Ryan Boylston observed that large trees are coming down, and much younger trees are being planted and questioned if the tree trust fund is inciting the behavior we want to see. Hal Stern thinks it is reasonable to ask if when taking down a mature tree, other than the shade it generates, is an older tree as efficient at removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as younger trees. The upcoming Urban Forestry Management Plan may provide some answers to these questions.

Kelly Brandon stated that tree planning is set through Site Plan Review and Appearance Board and the Historic Preservation Board, who both review landscape plans of developments when they come in.

Hal Stern asked if long-term, the money in the Tree Trust Fund will continue to be used like this and how much it will cost overtime. Kent Edwards replied he put in a request for a capital improvement project form for tree planting in the budget, which will be considered during the budget process.

Hal Stern asked how the Earth Day workshop was and if it was a good turnout. Molly Daly replied that City gave a presentation to businesses. Several businesses signed up, and although only a few showed up, we have their contact information and sent them the recording of the workshop as well as the website. The recording will be posted on the green business website as well.

Hal Stern asked how the tree giveaway went and if we were able to giveaway all 200 trees. He also asked if there was any follow up on Community Greening on how the trees were doing. Kent Edwards replied that we were able to give away most of the trees and there is follow up that Community Greening does for a period of time.

Molly Daly added that Community Greening stated in the past tree giveaways that 90 percent of the trees that are given away did survive and were doing good.

Lisa Shaheen said that she was not requesting to review site plans, but suggests that the Board recommend making the protections stronger. By looking at the language of the ordinance, they could make it harder for old growth trees to be taken down, and if they have to be taken down, they can recommend that developers do not put up a palm tree that does not have the same carbon absorption that an old growth tree would. Lisa has compiled

research that she is happy to share with staff and the Board and suggested that the Board make a recommendation to make the ordinance stronger.

Hal Stern stated he wants to get involved with the public to understand their concerns on environmental issues that are happening in Delray Beach. Sarah Lucas and Susan Lebrun both stated trying to get the public involved can possibly be a survey posted on the City website and see where the community's top priority for the environmental issues lay.

Kent Edwards replied a past survey was conducted as part of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. He will gather that data together, which is also available on the website, which might provide them with a lot of the information the Board is interested in.

Lisa Shaheen asked Kent Edwards if he is in contact with the Public Information Officer on a regular basis or if this is something he would like the Board to do.

Kent replied that the Office of Sustainability is in regular contact with them. For example, on the city website today the first thing that pops up is information on electric vehicle chargers. There was also a press release on the ten EV chargers and the PIO worked with Florida Power & Light (FPL) to promote it. Other postings on social media included the solar co-op, and the Green Business Certification workshop on Earth Day. During April we had two or three things a week going out. Molly said that monitoring indicates social media has not been as effective lately.

Kelly Brandon added that it is within the Board's purview to make recommendations about certain campaigns that they want or if they have education ideas and would like to recommend that to the City Commission.

Hal Stern asked if in addition or separate to the Board's annual report, is there a process for the Board to weigh in on the green building ordinance and support it. The Board's recommendation to pass an ordinance was made two years ago, and we know the City Commission directed staff to come up with a green building ordinance.

Kelly Brandon replied that the Board reviewed the draft of the ordinance, provided comments, and made a motion to approve it unanimously a few months ago. That information is delivered to the City Commission. The ordinance has gone to all of the Boards that are required before going to City Commission.

7. Old Business

a. Annual Report

Kelly Brandon commented that the Board needs to give consensus on the list of topics that will be presented to City Commission.

Sarah Lucas and Lisa Shaheen would like to add solar to the list of topics. Kent Edwards said the Board could mention solar under the topic of greenhouse gases. A plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, trees, green building ordinance and fleet management can also fall under this umbrella topic. Consensus was given to add solar to the list of topics.

Kelly Brandon then stated that the Board is always able to make suggestions to the City Commission when presenting to get the Board's goals accomplished.

b. Noise Pollution

Kent Edwards said that as the Board requested, staff put together research about noise pollution in Florida. The majority of examples primarily limits lawn maintenance between certain hours and setting an allowable decibel level. Two cities, City of Naples and Village of Key Biscayne, specifically restrict gas-powered blowers.

Susan Lebrun then asked about what type of decibels are considered high for noise pollution. Molly Daly replied that the gas leaf blowers do not go below 70 decibels and to put this into context, Sarah Lucas shared that a garbage disposal is 80 decibels, and a jet engine is 150 decibels.

In addition to the noise disturbance, gas-powered leaf blowers contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Sarah Lucas made a motion to table the topic and have more time to research the topic. Said motion was seconded by Lisa Shaheen. Hal Stern, Sarah Lucas and Lisa Shaheen voted in favor, with Susan Lebrun opposed.

c. Solid Waste Regulatory Agency presentation update

Kent Edwards contacted the Department of Environmental Protection and spoke to an Administrator. She was helpful and said they will gather the requested information on solid waste oversight, air emissions and other relevant monitoring. She might present about this information during the next Board meeting.

Hal Stern stated that he researched trade associations and local recycling groups. Some are industry based and some promote recycling practices. He will gather contact information and provide to staff if the organization holds presentations.

8. New Business

a. Buckets to pick up trash at beaches

Hal Stern said that as a private citizen, he contacted the Beach Bucket Foundation and introduced Missie Barletto to him. City Commission gave direction for this project, and staff is working on it. Kelly Brandon said that Commissioner Casale has been working with staff on this directly, and she will bring it back to the City Commission to vote on it.

b. City of Delray Beach Goal Setting meetings

Kent Edwards discussed his meeting with the consultant for the City's goal setting meetings. He discussed top priorities in each of the three categories: infrastructure and capital projects (trees, alternative energy sources, stormwater, seawalls, living shorelines, dunes); public policy, programs and services (environmental justice, outreach to encourage community support and preparedness, develop culture and

cooperation for sustainability in city staff, greenhouse gas reduction, focused plastics legislation); budget, workforce, operations, administration, technology (trees, planting, GIS system, urban forestry management plan, alternative energy, solar, storage, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure).

c. Boynton Beach utility donations to city's sustainability funds

Lisa Shaheen said that the Board had brought up in the past that if private citizens wanted to donate funds to plant trees, there was no mechanism to do it. Boynton Beach did it and added to their utility bills and wanted to raise the idea to the Board to do this here.

Kelly Brandon said that Boynton Beach added a link to the utility billing website that was a one-time payment for a donation.

Lisa Shaheen said that donations could be made to the Tree Trust Fund or a general sustainability fund.

9. Comments by Board Members

Susan Lebrun thanked Kent for his organization during the goal setting meeting.

10. Comments by Staff

Kent Edwards shared a previous experience and said he believes in public service and believes in the work he does. Kelly Brandon added that the next meeting will be in person.

11. Adjournment

Sarah Lucas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:03am. Said motion was seconded by Lisa Shaheen and passed unanimously.