

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 20th, 2019
SWINTON OPERATION COMPLEX BOARD ROOM
9:00AM – 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Trento
Lisa Shaheen
Christina Hammond
Sarah Lucas
Susan Lebrun
Mark Cassini

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Hal Stern

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS/OTHERS:

Mylene Crumiere
Daniel Stepner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Trento at 9:03am.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Sandy Trento.

Daniel Stepner stated he has lived in Delray Beach for 5 years, during which he has continued working as an Environmental Engineer at Arcadis focusing on water, wastewater and solid waste. He has been approved by the City Commission to be an Alternate Member for the Green Board beginning in July.

Mark Cassini and Christina Hammond arrived during this discussion.

3. Approval of Agenda

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda of June 20, 2019, seconded by Lisa Shaheen. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 16, 2019 with correction, seconded by Lisa Shaheen. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Old Business

a. Tree Canopy and Project Plan

E Sciences has provided a final version of the Tree Canopy and clarified that including surface water in the amount of acreage is a common practice, so their 23 percent average is accurate in terms of an overall tree canopy. Staff has moved on to the next step in creating a communication strategy and project plan. The goal is 10,000 trees in 10 years. To get 1,000 trees in the ground a year, a multi-faceted approach is needed.

Susan Lebrun inquired if there is a way to implement a tax rebate for the value of the tree. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin replied that each provides \$1.78 value in stormwater runoff prevention and she investigated implementing a rebate for this amount on the water bill; however, this type of rebate is not possible at this time.

Mark Cassini said that Community Greening has spent many years working with local municipalities to research, plan and implement tree programs such as this. Groups that have been doing urban forestry for over 50 years give away many trees a day using City funds as other sources, such as grants. About 50 percent of the trees survive that are provided at a tree giveaway. Mark Cassini also stated that there are many public properties that can hold over 100 trees, so about 10 to 20 properties need to be identified to reach the 10,000-trees goal.

As another step of this project, staff is using ArcGIS data to find sites with available tree planting space in low-income areas where the tree canopy level tends to be below the average.

Mark Cassini expressed concern that this program is being created without the input of the Tree Board. Ana Puszkin-Chevlin informed Board members that the Tree Board is on hold and may be disbanded in the future. Mark Cassini noted that he is concerned that this information has not been shared with Tree Board members.

Sandy Trento conveyed frustration with this process since there is so much support amongst City Commissioners and the public. She inquired if private funders could support this program to allow the City to then purchase trees to be planted on private property.

Ana Puszkin-Chevlin reiterated that staff is researching a multi-faceted approach, which will include opportunities for donations, dedications and adopt-a-tree programs.

b. Climate and Art Event

Ana Puszkin-Chevin stated that this event occurs annually and concentrates on King Tides. This year's event is focused the arts community and how arts can be used to interpret climate change and motivate in a way that is outside of the science community.

Daniel Stepner stated that art can be a tool to combat climate change, such as landscaping and art installments that can be used as a barrier for rising tides.

Ana Puszkin-Chevin said that she is working with Janet Meeks, Education Coordinator for the City of Delray Beach, as well as the Art Board, League of Women Voters, Downtown Development Authority, Milagro Center, and the Historical Society. She has shortened the event to now take place on Friday, October 4th and Saturday, October 5th. Staff is considering a giveaway for event participants, such as a reusable cup they can use to purchase a climate-themed beverage from restaurants downtown.

Sarah Lucas began a discussion about what the call to action should be for the event, and Christina Hammond recommended a catchy hashtag to help with instilling this takeaway message. Sandy Trento recommended staff to consider asking the Boys and Girls Club to play music at the event, which will boost participation.

c. Follow up on Skip the Straw

Staff is working with Code Enforcement to reach out to food establishments again about Ordinance 10-19 to help address any confusion that has risen after Governor DeSantis vetoed House Bill 771. Ana Puszkin-Chevin stated that since it is already six months since this Ordinance was approved, so it is concerning. Another mailing can be sent to food establishments and the Office of Sustainability will work closely with Code Enforcement staff.

Sarah Lucas conversed with staff about *Strawfish* and the business model they use to provide free paper straws to food establishments by using advertisements to offset costs. Mylene Crumiere proposed that staff provides food establishments information about the ordinance when they come to renew their business license.

d. Ordinances on Reducing Plastics in Delray Beach

Board members were provided information on ordinances executed by several municipalities and focus on reducing single-use plastics; such as, plastic shopping bags, food containers, plastic straws, and polystyrene. Ana Puszkin-Chevin asked Board members to look through the ordinances and use the blank worksheet to convey opinions on what these types of ordinances should look like if Delray Beach implements it.

Daniel Stepner asked Board members what their goals are in recommending policy to reduce plastics in Delray Beach. Board members stated that they are looking to support the use of alternatives to plastic, reduce the amount of plastics in our waterways and ecosystem, and they hope that Delray Beach will be a leader in encouraging behavior change that will lead to a greater collective positive impact.

e. Coastal Resilience Partnership – Community Vulnerability Assessment

Staff has provided a memorandum to Assistant City Manager that documents background of partnership and justification for Community Vulnerability Assessment. Next, the City Attorney will review the document and send to the City Commission to approve the partnership between over 9 cities who are focused on climate resilience. The Office of Sustainability has requested \$60,000 for the study, which is significantly cheaper than if the study was going to be completed independently.

f. EV Charging Stations

Christina Hammond states that she uses the charging station in town regularly, and has noticed some that are very busy and an available parking space is hard to find. Tesla cars are becoming increasingly popular in Delray Beach, and she recommends looking into adding Tesla charging stations in town.

g. Textile Recycling Bins

Ana Puszkin-Chevin informed Board members that seven of the Textile Recycling Bins have been placed in town, but three additional bins are expected after suitable locations are found. Of the seven that are in town, staff has received complaints about two bins. These bins will be relocated soon.

7. New Business

a. Green Business Certification Program

Molly Daly provided Board members a memorandum that includes research of green business certification programs, comparisons of various programs, and a suggested model of a program that Delray Beach can implement. Staff has been working with the City of Boynton Beach and City of Boca Raton to gather feedback from their new green business programs, and to review Delray Beach's model for a certification program. Staff is working with various organizations to strengthen it and to implement a pilot program. Also, staff is planning to present this program to the City Commission in September. Staff requested that Board members review this document and provide recommendations.

b. HOA Outreach

Board members are looking to increase outreach to the community and would like to send information to homeowner associations in Delray Beach. A letter was drafted by staff and provided to Board members for edits and approval. This letter will be sent to the homeowner associations in city limits. Daniel Stepner suggested that as the Green Business Certification Program progresses, staff could consider certifying homeowner associations as well.

8. Comments by Board Members

Sandy Trento expressed her gratitude for the time and commitment given by Mark Cassini while he was a member of the Green Board. Board members and staff look forward to working with him on future projects and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

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 Sandy Trento declared the meeting adjourned at 11:04am.