

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
SWINTON OPERATION COMPLEX BOARD ROOM
9:00AM – 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hal Stern
Lisa Shaheen
Sarah Lucas
Susan Lebrun
Sandy Trento
Christina Hammond

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Missie Barletto, Assistant Public Works Director
Molly Daly, Sustainability Intern
Gina Carter, Public Information Officer

GUESTS/OTHERS:

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|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Daniel Stepner | Lucas | Elyan Schwarts | Nuri David |
| Suzanne Michler | Rochwerger | Anthony Pugliese | Adrian Graham |
| Mylene Crumiere | David Fischer | Avi Kapuler | Arafat Bari |
| Rachel Mezza | Ryan Wilk | Emily Diamond | Hunter Isbell |
| Dante Centofanti | Amber Wilson | Morgan Becerra | Jeff Royce |
| Lily Greenburg | Devyn Newman | Craig Bannon | Carolina Perez |
| Ava Zimms | Bella Silbert | Joe Diamond | |
| Jordan Kirsch | Olivia Katz | Tal Argou | |
| Angelina | Bryce Dangerfield | Sierra Greenbers | |
| Meldrum | Ella Reiss | Zach Hirsch | |

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Hal Stern at 9:06am.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Hal Stern.

3. Approval of Agenda

Lisa Shaheen made a motion to approve the agenda of September 19, 2019, seconded by Sarah Lucas. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Lucas made a motion to table the approval of the minutes for the August 15, 2019 meeting until the next meeting in October. Said motion was seconded by Sandy Trento and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

Gina Carter, the City of Delray Beach's Public Information Officer, introduced herself to the board members. Daniel Stepner also spoke to let board members know that he stepped down as an Alternate member for the Green Implementation Advancement Board after being approved to become a member of the Planning and Zoning Board.

A senior class from Space of Mind visited the meeting to hear about the board's sustainability initiatives. Rachel Mezza, a teacher at Space of Mind, spoke about the student's curriculum regarding the environment and how they are participating in the Friday for Our Future initiative by demonstrating at City Hall tomorrow afternoon. The students are also learning about advocacy and have been researching topics they are passionate about and learning how to voice their opinions.

6. Changes in City personnel

Missie Barletto discussed some of the changes in City staff since the previous meeting. With a vacancy in the Sustainability Officer position, she will act as a board liaison moving forward. She also informed the board that Molly Daly will continue to work with the board. In addition, the City will be adding a staff liaison from the Planning and Zoning Department for additional support with the board's initiatives.

Hal Stern inquired about the process for properly communicating the board's initiatives to the City Commission. Missie Barletto stated that she will send the board documents that detail these procedures.

7. Old Business

a. Ordinances on Reducing Plastics in Delray Beach

Molly Daly has compiled the board's recommendations on single-use plastics in a report and reviewed each of the strategies to ensure that each of their concerns are addressed. These recommendations include: amending the plastic straw ban to also include stirrers, for disposable cutlery to be made of biobased materials and to be distributed upon request only, to encourage businesses to remove single-use plastic bags and polystyrene products from their waste stream through a voluntary Green Business Certification Program, restricting the use of mylar balloons and Styrofoam packing peanuts, prohibiting cigarette smoking on the beaches, and regulating single-use plastics on City property.

Hal Stern stated that while the City has implemented an internal policy to prohibit the purchase of Styrofoam products, he is also interested in seeing how the City can reduce single-use plastics at settings such as the Green Market. Molly Daly asked if the board would like to recommend updating the Special Event Permits to include stricter

sustainability provisions. The board stated that they would like to hear more about this topic at the next meeting.

b. Green Business Certification Program

A presentation was made to the Chamber of Commerce regarding the City's upcoming Green Business Certification Program. The Chamber of Commerce expressed support and is looking forward to help pilot the program at businesses that are located throughout the city. Molly Daly informed board members that due to City staff changes, the pilot stage has been stalled but should have progress soon.

c. Tree Fund and Tree Canopy Program

At a recent meeting, City Commissioners transferred the oversight of the Tree Trust Fund to the Green Implementation Advancement Board, which provides citizens the ability to make recommendations to the City for tree planting projects. The City has an average tree canopy of 23 percent and has the goal of planting 10,000 trees to raise the tree canopy to 28 percent within 10 years. To accomplish this, Hal Stern pointed out that the next step is for the City to conduct a tree inventory of trees on City property.

A student from Space of Mind asked how the City was able to determine the tree canopy, and staff replied that E Sciences was contracted earlier this year to assess the tree canopy. E Sciences used satellite imagery and GIS to differentiate five different kinds of land cover – tree canopy, ground cover, dirt, cement and water – and used this information to determine the City's average tree canopy coverage. The student also inquired about the benefits of increasing the tree canopy, and staff answered that trees have numerous benefits that include raising property values, decreasing stormwater runoff and pollution, improving air quality and human health.

Lisa Shaheen spoke about the National Wildlife Federation's program that supports tree planting projects in the community to help improve wildlife habitat. Community members can apply to host a small-scale tree planting event. Sandy Trento discussed Arbor Day and expressed her desire to see the City plan an event for Arbor Day in April 2020. Susan Lebrun asked if the City could also incorporate Earth Day into this event as well. The board gave consensus for the City to plan this type of event.

The Board was informed that staff will need to create a procedure for members to analyze each proposal for a Tree Trust Fund project in an alike manner. Also, staff will compile pertinent regulations and provide it to board members. Members of the Tree Board will be attending future meetings to support the Green Implementation Advancement Board in these tasks.

Missie Barletto provided information on Florida Power & Light's tree removal project on Swinton Avenue taking place over the next few months as part of improving infrastructure and hurricane preparedness.

d. Climate and Art Event

Molly Daly discussed the upcoming two-day event and provided flyers with detailed information. This event is intended to increase awareness about rising tides and climate change impacts through various forms of art media. Many art galleries and businesses are participating in this event and showcasing art pieces, films and musical performances that convey different messages pertaining to the effects of climate change.

Sandy Trento encourages board members and the public to attend the event at the Delray Beach Historical Society where youth performances will be taking place.

Gina Carter voiced her communication strategy for the event, which includes a press release, highlighting it on the City website and multiple posts on social media platforms.

e. Coastal Resilience Partnership – Community Vulnerability Assessment

Staff explained that the Interlocal Agreement has not been reviewed by the participating municipalities at this point, which has prevented the partnership from receiving a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection for the Community Vulnerability Assessment. If the grant is not received, the partners agreed to reapply for a grant during the next cycle while continuing to finalize the Interlocal Agreement.

Susan Lebrun asked if this would stall the project for another year, and staff replied that the partners can still move forward on the assessment without the aid of the grant if needed. Hal Stern expressed the importance of remaining active in this partnership and pursuing a community vulnerability assessment.

f. Updates on Community Outreach

Molly Daly discussed working with Gina Carter to post more about green initiatives on social media platforms. Hal Stern reiterated the importance of staying in communication with community groups, such as homeowner associations, for staff and community members to stay up to date and support green initiatives. Gina Carter shared that there is an email list she uses and can try a green newsletter. Board members asked what we could post on social media to hear from more HOAs, and Gina Carter offered doing a survey on Facebook to engage followers.

8. New Business

a. Open Letter to Repeal Preemption of Plastic Bags and Polystyrene

Staff has created a memorandum that communicates the board's motion for the City Commission to send a letter to the State of Florida in support of repealing preemptions of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene. The memorandum has been sent to the Chairperson for review and signature.

b. Strategic Plan Draft

A 5-Year Strategic Plan for the Office of Sustainability has been drafted, but with the recent changes in City personnel, the document is on hold.

c. Alternative Board Member Vacancy

During the next City Commission meeting an alternate board member will be appointed. Sarah Lucas spoke about the need for diversity on the board in order to represent the community more effectively.

9. Comments by Board Members

Lisa Shaheen asked board members if they would like to schedule a presentation about the composting program at Broken Sound. A consensus was given to offer this presentation to City staff who did not participate in a previously scheduled tour of the facility at Broken Sound.

A discussion begun about the time of the board's monthly meetings and a consensus was given to table this topic until the member vacancy has been fulfilled.

Susan Lebrun informed staff that she would like to have an update about expanding the green building requirements in Delray Beach.

10. Comments by Staff

None

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sandy Trento and seconded by Lisa Shaheen. Said motion passed unanimously and Lisa Shaheen declared the meeting adjourned at 10:57am.