

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019
SWINTON OPERATION COMPLEX BOARD ROOM
9:00AM – 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hal Stern, Chairperson
Sandy Trento, Vice-Chairperson
Lisa Shaheen
Sarah Lucas
Susan Lebrun
Maren Graben
Christina Hammond (via teleconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Missie Barletto, Assistant Director of Public Works
Suzanne Fisher, Assistant City Manager
Molly Daly, Assistant Sustainability Planner
Brian Ruscher, Transportation Planner

GUESTS/OTHERS:

George Gann, Institute for Regional Conservation
Juli Casale
Mylene Crumiere

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Hal Stern.

3. Approval of Agenda

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda of January 16, 2020, seconded by Sandy Trento. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sandy Trento made a motion to approve the December 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Said motion was seconded by Sarah Lucas and the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

No comments from the public. Missie Barletto made an announcement to the Board that Molly Daly has become a fulltime employee and has taken on a new role as the Assistant Sustainability Planner. She will continue as a staff liaison but also expand her responsibilities to include natural resource projects such as invasive species management and restoration.

Hal Stern inquired about the vacant Sustainability Officer position. Missie responded that the new City Manager is interested in looking at this position in depth and understands that Delray Beach is a green city and that sustainability is important to us. Sarah Lucas requests that if this position is going to be reopened, that the Board is kept in the loop. Sarah recognizes that while they have an advisory role their opinion may not affect the decision but would appreciate the opportunity to communicate it. In addition, Sarah acknowledged Molly Daly for her time as an intern and states that she has demonstrated her ability to navigate challenges in local government and has been able to keep the Board moving forward even in the absence of the fulltime position.

6. Presentation: George Gann, Institute for Regional Conservation

George Gann is the Executive Director for the Institute for Regional Conservation where he is a Chief Conservation Strategist and is also a Policy Lead for Society for Ecological Restoration. George aims to be the bridge between global thinking and local action.

The Institute for Regional Conservation is a 501c(3) organization that has been around for over 30 years and has been active in Florida since the mid-nineties. They conduct species research, host education workshops and produce many resources. Coastal erosion has been a large issue for South Florida and there was huge loss in vegetation. After decades of many successful projects, the Delray Beach dune ecosystem has an abundance of biodiversity. However, there is still work that can be done. They proposed a project from Boca Raton to Lake Worth and received a \$100,000 grant to enhance biodiversity. Collaboration between stakeholders, private property owners and municipalities is integral to this project.

Susan Lebrun asked George what his timeline is. George responded that this project began in mid-May 2019 and will conclude in mid-November 2020 when the funds from the grant are used. However, this project will have a greater chance of success if they continue to work on these projects with constituency support. Susan inquired how municipalities can assist with these efforts. George responded that in Delray Beach, having access to Atlantic Dunes Park and the municipal beach is important as well coordinating with maintenance and future planning decisions for these areas.

Ocean Ridge has a small beach and the efforts have focused on working with the City Commission, staff and private owners of beachfront properties. They assessed the dune system, held a workshop and then distributed a mass mailing with information to residents. Working with community groups and the public is crucial to the success of the project, and volunteers help with the planting events. George has been working with the City of Delray Beach's Parks and Recreation Department throughout this project and have held a few kick-off events. Moving forward, awareness, coordination and financial support will be key.

George is looking to do a large planting event in Delray Beach in May on the municipal beach. For private homeowners, the Institute is working to develop a program that would include a starter kit, resources and an assessment of their property.

Missie Barletto encouraged George Gann to work closely with Molly Daly to manage the ecosystem effectively and increase communication between City departments about these natural resources. Staff education needs to happen in addition to coordination. George Gann responded that they have some funds available to hold educational workshops for City staff.

Christina Hammond stated that she has experience in invasive management in Loxahatchee and offered support.

Susan asked if they need to draft a resolution in support of these efforts, and Suzanne Fisher replied that it is going to be on an upcoming agenda for City Commission. Suzanne Fisher also offered that the Green Board could express their support for these initiatives during their annual presentation to the City Commission.

7. Old Business

a. Green Building Ordinance

Staff stated that they are waiting on an update from the City Attorney's Office. Sarah Lucas asked if there is something the Green Board should do to express urgency, and Molly Daly responded that the City Commission had conveyed a sense of urgency, but staff has not had as many workdays as usual because of the holidays.

b. Amendment to Ordinance 10-19

Hal Stern informed Board members that he sent an email to the City Commission urging them to reacquaint themselves with this recommendation and asked them to move forward with it. So far, he has had responses from Bill Bathurst and Ryan Boylston. Hal said he is going to put in another inquiry to see if this recommendation will be added to an upcoming agenda. Missie Barletto stated that City Commissioners are reading the Board recommendations and could discuss it during the City Commissioner comments section of the meetings to provide input or direction to the City Manager.

Sarah Lucas asked if it might be useful for Board members to address the City Commission during the public comments portion of the meeting. Suzanne Fisher replied that some Boards have had a representative speak during public commentary in the past, but typically it is to discuss an upcoming event. If the Board is interested in using that as an opportunity to speak in front of the City Commission, they can do so.

Molly Daly said that Ordinance 10-19 became in effect at the beginning of the year, so perhaps a concern might be that we need to see its effects before considering an amendment. Not all businesses are aware of Ordinance 10-19 and more outreach should be done. Staff held a meeting yesterday to discuss an action plan for this.

c. Coastal Resilience Partnership

Brian Ruscher updated the Board on the progress of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Southeast Palm Beach County. The bid has been opened on the City of Lake Worth Beach's website, and by the next meeting we should have a better idea of the timeline for negotiation and selection of the consultant. The deadline was recently extended to allow for more bid responses. Also, as part of the grant the City of Boynton Beach received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, there is funding to host a few workshops in March and April that are geared towards City Commissioners and City Managers, City staff and then community organizations. Brian will be

sending emails to Board members with this information and will ask them if there are specific organizations they think should be invited to the meeting.

Brian also informed the Board that the City is working on a proclamation for National Bike Month in March and more information will be provided soon.

d. Tree Trust Fund and Tree Canopy Program

Molly anticipates that after making edits to the Urban Tree Management Plan she can send the information to other City staff for their contributions in the next week. Hal expressed his interest in providing a way for a donation program for individuals and organizations to support planting trees.

Missie Barletto informed the Board that the City cannot accept in-memoriam donations. Suzanne Fisher said that they had an in-memoriam tree program in the past, and even though individuals had signed a waiver that said the tree could die, the City almost had a lawsuit because of this. In-memoriam trees can have emotional attachments that have caused issues in the past.

Molly Daly stated that they will continue discussions internally if there is interest in having a tree donation program that would enable the public to contribute to the tree canopy without forming an emotional attachment to a specific tree.

Christina Hammond inquired if there would still be a way to recognize businesses for their donations without attaching a plaque to a specific tree. Perhaps, it could be a donation board or recognition on the City website. Suzanne Fisher said staff will discuss this further.

Lisa Shaheen made a motion to move agenda item I to be the next discussion item. Said motion was seconded by Sarah Lucas and passed unanimously.

e. Green Business Certification Program

Molly Daly has not had one-on-one meetings with businesses since the last Board meeting. However, City Commission has expressed support in this program. Molly asked the Board if they would like to introduce this to the City Commission during their annual presentation. Susan responded that she would like to see it discussed in more detail than time would allow during this presentation, so if it should be a separate agenda item.

f. Tour at Broken Sound

Broken Sound requested to reschedule the tour in March. Board members expressed their interest in holding it in the beginning of the month. Board members will send their availability to staff and Molly will coordinate with Broken Sound.

g. Composting

WiseTribe has been doing outreach with the vendors at the GreenMarket to discuss composting. She also did an assessment for how much potential compost is produced at every market, and it looks like there is enough to fill about 6 large garbage bins each week. Based on this assessment, Molly Daly sent a few options of compost bins to the staff person at the City for the GreenMarket, Lori Nolan.

Also, Molly Daly helped Lori with the compost pilot by asking the working with the City Attorney's Office to provide legal guidance to ensure that this program will not breach the City's contract with waste services. Hal said that if we can accomplish this on City property, perhaps it can be used an example of something we can encourage HOAs to do.

h. Solar Panels

Staff does not have any updates at this time.

i. Earth Day/Arbor Day

Several staff members have met to organize the details for this event. Two locations have been suggested, and the idea is to start with a speaker about the City's tree planting goals, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and how that ties into climate action and water conservation. Staff might have this information on posters at the event as well. Molly Daly spoke to the City of West Palm Beach and asked what species and size trees they usually giveaway to residents. For this event, staff is looking at giving away around 200 trees. Also, staff is going to engage residents about where to plant trees on their property by using the "right tree right place" principle. The event is anticipated to be held on April 18, 2020 from 9am to 11am. Lisa Shaheen asked to stay involved in the planning for this event.

j. HOA Outreach

No staff updates at this time.

8. New Business

Hal Stern said that the Board should discuss the annual presentation they will make to City Commission in April. Molly Daly will get back to the Board with a date when they are announced.

Susan Lebrun requested to change the name of the advisory board to "Green Board". Christina Hammond advises changing the name as well. She likes the name "Green Board" but also would like the Board members to consider changing it to "Sustainability Advisory Board". Mylene Crumiere stated that using the term "green" is easier for the public to remember. The Board gave a consensus to table this item until March.

9. Updates on Implemented Projects

a. EV Chargers

Molly Daly said that the Chief Parking Facilities Administrator is getting three quotes for additional EV chargers.

b. Textile Recycling Bins

Staff is working on a breach of contract letter and will be working with this vendor to reconcile the issues.

10. Comments by Board Members

Christina Hammond commented that when the Green Business Certification Program is presented to the City Commission that results of the pilot program and business feedback is included in sound bites or a video.

Sandy Trento stated that she is pleased that Molly Daly is continuing to work for the City in a fulltime role and that there is an additional position that is working on sustainability. Molly Daly responded that she is looking forward to assisting the City with projects focused on natural resources and is excited for the new position.

Sarah Lucas mentioned that she would like to attend next month's meeting over Skype since she will be out of town.

11. Comments by Staff

None

12. 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 10:52am.