

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING
9:00AM – 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hal Stern, Chairperson
Sarah Lucas, Vice-Chairperson
Susan Lebrun
Lisa Shaheen, Second Vice-Chairperson
Christina Hammond

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Maren Graben
Shaynaz Malleck

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 9:03am. 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

Susan Lebrun made a motion to defer Agenda Item 6 City Attorney Presentation, since the attachment was not loaded onto the agenda. Sarah Lucas seconded said motion which passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the September 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Said motion was seconded by Susan Lebrun and the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Old Business

a. Debrief of Annual GIAB Presentation held during October 6, 2020 City Commission meeting

Hal Stern discussed the Board's recent presentation to the City Commission and stated that one of the major takeaways was that the City Commission reinforced the idea that the Board be responsible, in some way, for tree planting in the city.

He also expressed a need for follow up from staff and from the Board about this issue.

Susan Lebrun said that Hal Stern did a great job with the presentation and that the information was well received. Sarah Lucas thanked Hal for doing the presentation and representing the work the Board has done over the past year. She also said that even with the pandemic and staff turnover there has been some work done, although we are not where we need to be.

Hal Stern responded that work such as an Urban Forestry Management Plan and the tree inventory still needs to be done by the City.

Lisa Shaheen joined the meeting by teleconference at this time.

b. Polystyrene and Other Plastic -Related Initiatives

i. Memo to Commissioners Regarding State Preemptions

Kent Edwards sent the memorandum to the City Commission and will forward it to the Board members as well. He has not yet received direction stemming from this memo but is anticipating one-on-one meetings with the City Commissioners soon and will inquire about the memo at that time.

Christina Hammond joined the meeting at this time.

ii. Amendment to Ordinance 10-19

The memorandum that expresses the Board's recommendation to amend Ordinance 10-19 was sent to the City Commission for a second time as an attachment to the memo described in section 6.b.i.

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

Hal Stern said he is very pleased that Commissioner Casale took the lead on the polystyrene issue and that we are moving forward on what we can legally do in the city to reduce the use of polystyrene. He added that he would like to see this also applied to plastic bags and single-use plates so we can move forward on reducing the use of single-use plastics within the city.

c. Green Business Certification Program

The Green Business Certification Program will start next month, and staff is planning a workshop on November 12th with businesses to overview the program, its requirements, certification levels and have time for Q&A.

This workshop will be held online through Microsoft Teams. Kent Edwards stated that during the Chamber of Commerce's Advocacy Committee virtual meeting last week concerns were shared about workloads since the Chamber is working hard to support businesses that are struggling during this hard time.

Sarah Lucas suggested that the workshop be recorded so it can be accessed in the future.

The workshop advertisement will be sent to the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Development Authority and to the Board so they can share and help increase participation. The City will also need to post a notice through the City Clerk's Office about the meeting if more than one Board member plans to attend.

d. Tree Trust Fund and Tree Canopy Program

Oversight of the Tree Trust Fund will be moved to the Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR). Staff is working on forming the process to access the funds and the approval process for projects. Kent Edwards said that he believes suggestions for projects should be open to all departments and the community, which would need to be submitted with a site plan that includes the location, size of trees, and an estimate of cost. Kent Edwards also asked the Board where they see their role in this process.

Sarah Lucas suggested that the Board operates in more of an advisory capacity and reviews proposals quarterly that staff has already reviewed and would like to move forward on. Sarah Lucas also said that she hopes monies from the Tree Trust Fund does not replace funding a department already has for a similar project, and that this money is used only on trees.

Hal Stern said that he had previously written and submitted a memo to the Board proposing a role for the Board as it pertains to trees.

Susan Lebrun asked what the typical timeline would be for suggesting a project, reviewing it, submitting an RFP and then awarding a contract.

Kent Edwards said that tying into the budget process will be important and is concerned about how much time this will take for staff if OSAR is the purchasing agent. Departments can suggest projects and submit a site plan, OSAR can review and approve, then the purchasing process could proceed in collaboration between OSAR and the department that submitted the proposal. In addition, OSAR will conduct the accounting for the Tree Trust Fund and provide the Board with monthly or quarterly updates.

Hal Stern added that he would like the Board's role to be more expansive such as measuring progress of the City's tree planting goal, which would include more than just the Tree Trust Fund. Hal Stern said that with the goal of planting 10,000 trees in 5 years, there is a responsibility to achieve it, and that the Board and staff should also share progress with the City Commission.

Kent Edwards updated the Board about the tree inventory solicitation process; it was not completed within the budget year and OSAR has not seen the responses. This brings up the importance of having a steering committee made up of staff to discuss sustainability.

Susan Lebrun asked if it was possible to continue to plant trees simultaneously to completing the tree inventory, and staff responded that work is already being done and will continue to progress while also working on the tree inventory. Balancing community outreach will also be important to ensure that planting trees does not become an additional burden to residents, especially those in areas with lower incomes, and is instead a benefit.

Hal Stern said that the Board can play a vital role in long-term plan and helps with outreach and engagement. Citizen participation would be a key component of this plan.

Lisa Shaheen commented that this is a good start and applauds staff for their work. She added that moving the Tree Trust Fund to the purview of OSAR is a good step and agrees that it is important to have a steering committee for staff. Lisa Shaheen attended the last tree giveaway, but considered if there was a more personal touch the event could have such as a team of volunteers working with churches and with communities that have a lower tree canopy percentage and asked what the plan is for outreach.

Hal Stern responded that the Board could hold a workshop and come up with ideas of how to accomplish this. Marketing will be important, and there will be a need to work with the PIO and homeowner associations. Hal Stern added that Board members can send their ideas to Kent Edwards.

e. Green Building Ordinance

A final draft of the ordinance has been completed, which was worked on by OSAR, Development Services, and the City Attorney's Office. Kent Edwards anticipates sending this out internally to staff in December and expects many questions about how this will impact their workload.

f. Coastal Resilience Partnership - Brian Ruscher, Transportation Planner

Numerous City staff met with the consultant to run through data outputs from the ongoing Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Some of the models reviewed included high winds and sea level rise. A workshop for staff will occur soon and will look at the AccelAdapt tool that has mapped the impacts of the twelve threats of climate change as identified in the study.

On November 19th at 5:30pm a public workshop will be held to give an update of the project. In addition, Kent Edwards will be the project manager for Delray Beach moving forward.

Brian Ruscher gave an overview of the presentation that will be given to the City Commission in November and contains an update of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

g. Debrief of RISE: Climate & Art (Virtual) 2020

Molly Daly informed the Board that the four-day event was a success. There were some technological issues and storm interference during some of the sessions, but overall, the impact was positive. The first two events had hundreds of views on Facebook live. Most of the sessions were recorded and will be viewable on the website after it is updated. Kent Edwards echoed that the number of views the events had and sessions were great, also all of the partners said they would like to participate next year as well. Planning for next year's event will begin in March or April 2021.

h. Homeowner and Condo Owner Outreach

Neighborhood and Community Services did recently update their contact lists for homeowner associations and Shaynaz Malleck is reaching out to the contacts listed to help.

7. New Business

a. Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers

Sarah Lucas said that this topic has been one that had been discussed in the past but has not had updates recently. Approval is pending for an agreement between the City and Florida Power & Light who will install and maintain six EV chargers at Old School Square parking garage and four EV chargers at the Tennis Center. With this agreement, the amount of EV chargers available for the public to use for free will grow from five to fifteen. Development Services has made a map of EV chargers in Delray Beach and this should be shared with the public to inform them of the locations of chargers in city limits.

8. Comments by Board Members

None

9. Comments by Staff

None

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sarah Lucas and seconded by Susan Lebrun. Said motion passed unanimously and Hal Stern declared the meeting adjourned at 11:04am.