

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING
9:00AM – 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Maren Graben

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Brandon, Assistant City Attorney
Molly Daly, Assistant Sustainability Planner
Kent Edwards, Sustainability Officer
Brian Ruscher, Transportation Planner
William Wilsher, Senior Landscape 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

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

Molly Daly stated that two board members' titles were transposed and need to be corrected on the minutes. Sarah Lucas made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as amended. Said motion was seconded by Lisa Shaheen and the motion was passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Development Services Presentation

Brian Ruscher and William Wilsher gave a presentation about the City's tree protection ordinance, overviewed how staff implement the ordinance and work with developers, in-lieu fee structure, and the Tree Preservation Trust Fund.

Susan Lebrun asked how long the process typically takes for homeowners, and William Wilsher replied that applications are reviewed quickly, if approved homeowners have six months to remove a tree and two months to replace it. Susan also asked about expenditures of the Tree Preservation Trust Fund, and Development Services clarified that they do not oversee expenditures but are responsible for determining the fees that developers pay as outlined in the ordinance.

The Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSAR) was given oversight of the Tree Trust Fund in late 2020, and moving forward, the Tree Preservation Trust Fund cannot be used without approval from Kent Edwards. The tree planting RFP and contract with Community Greening to plant 2,000 trees in Delray Beach in one year cost \$190,000 and a significant portion of the contract was taken from the Tree Preservation Trust Fund.

Sarah Lucas thanked staff for the presentation and inquired about enforcement of the ordinance. William Wilsher responded that with new development enforcement is very good, but it is harder to enforce the rule with single-family residences.

Molly Daly reminded Board members that there is additional training on February 8, 2020 at 5pm.

7. Old Business

a. Polystyrene and Other Plastic -Related Initiatives

i. Memo to Commissioners Regarding State Preemptions

This item was included in the legislative priorities packet for the City's lobbyist and City Commission has reviewed it. Susan Lebrun asked if the Board would like to consider additional approaches to be able to lobby for this topic, such as contacting State representatives in Tallahassee individually or requesting that the City Commission reaches out.

Kelly Brandon notified the Board that they can speak to representatives as citizens, not as a Board member. The Board can write a memo to the City Commission to request Board members to reach out or to ask Commissioners to contact representatives.

Kent Edwards encouraged Board members to contact representatives individually since more voices will be heard that way. Hal Stern added that the Florida League of Cities amongst other groups are advocates for home rule and this may be of interest to them. Hal also asked if the Board would like to make a motion for a recommendation to the City Commission about this topic.

Molly Daly told the board that there are two bills introduced for this upcoming legislative session that would repeal the preemption of plastic bags and polystyrene products (Senate Bill 594 and House Bill 6027). Kent Edwards added that Senator Polski is a co-sponsor of the Senate Bill and she could work with the neighboring cities in his district.

Susan Lebrun said she met with Mike Caruso several months ago and believes he might be interested in supporting the bills. Kelly Brandon stated that she thinks the best options are to ask the City Commission to

speak to representatives to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the bill or to do a resolution to support the bills like the Board did last year and send it to the Governor.

Kent Edwards said that he is happy to write up a memo and send it to the Board for comments, but this will need to happen before the next meeting since the date for Florida's legislative session is approaching, and he encourages the Board to take additional measures discussed during the meeting.

Hal Stern said that the Board could use the resolution from last year, update it with the correct bill numbers and send it to the City Commission. Kelly Brandon added that if a motion is made, it would be to request a memo to the commissioners that those resolutions be sent with the amendment. Susan made said motion and it was seconded by Sarah Lucas. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Amendment to Ordinance 10-19

Staff is working on the Green Building Ordinance and Florida Green Building Certification for local governments will come back to this amendment when those are further underway.

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

Kelly Brandon communicated that she is drafting verbiage for City Departments to include in their contracts to encourage vendors to reduce polystyrene use on a voluntary basis. Molly Daly added that Parks & Recreation department will be adding a link and information about sustainable food ware items onto the page for Special Event Permits.

b. Green Business Certification Program

The certification has been designed and staff reviewed the first checklist submitted. Yaxche Tea Room achieved gold, which is the highest level of certification, and when the certificate is awarded to the business the City will take photos so it can be promoted on social media.

Staff thinks it will be better to do a second round of outreach about this program closer to Earth Day, but in the meantime staff and the Board can help increase participation by contacting businesses we have contacts with. Molly Daly said she will send Board members the information they need to help with this.

Christina Hammond recommended that with whatever materials staff provides certified businesses to include QR codes and table tents so customers can learn more.

c. Tree Canopy

i. Tree Planting

Community Greening is on track to complete the contract of planting 2,000 trees in year one of the five-year goal. Staff is working on drafting the RFP for tree planting years two through five.

ii. Tree Inventory

The selection committee has met and selected the top three submittals. These three entities will be giving presentations next week, and then the committee will be selecting their choice to award the contract to.

iii. Tree Preservation Trust Fund

The staff member in the Purchasing department who was assisting with generating reports for the fund is no longer with the City, so it is more difficult to find this information. Staff in OSAR has requested the correct access through the financial software to be able to do this. Moving forward, any expenditures from the fund requires approval from the Sustainability Officer.

d. Green Building Ordinance

The draft ordinance has been distributed amongst the Departments and staff will be meeting to discuss internal processes.

Kent Edwards discussed Florida Green Building Certification's (FGBC) Local Green Government and this ordinance will earn the City points towards certification. The draft ordinance will be attached to the next meeting's agenda.

e. Coastal Resilience Partnership

The partnership and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) is being finalized and should be completed soon. Staff will be trained on the AccelAdapt tool, which is the interactive online map that can be used to assess threats and social vulnerability locally. The final report is anticipated to be completed by April.

Christina Hammond said that FAU has a great GIS department in case the City needs to bring in more staff or interns.

f. Homeowner and Condo Owner Outreach

Shaynaz Malleck has made many calls to homeowner associations. Several are interested in hearing more about sustainability initiatives and in being part of a network between HOAs. Shaynaz asked the Board if they would like her to continue looking for contacts that are interested, or if to stop and develop a plan for the contacts we have already.

Hal Stern said Robert Victorin would like to be added to the list. Hal also suggested that the Board members to think about a plan until next meeting and should defer the item until then.

Kent Edwards said that OSAR can use the list as an email distribution list for events and announcements in the meantime. Hal Stern added that there are so many ways that people are already being sustainable at home that he sees that

information being shared amongst each other and that it would take on a life of its own. Kelly Brandon clarified that this would not be a Working Group.

Kent Edwards said that OSAR will look at running a Facebook page to deliver a focused message to the public and suggested that the Board continues to call HOAs and tell them the Board is trying to tie people together, to inform them about what is going on in the city, and to grow a social media presence properly.

Hal Stern reiterated that this would be to increase citizen awareness about what we are doing and inform them about issues such as the preemption of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene materials so they also know what we can't do – which could provoke citizen involvement.

g. EV Chargers

Molly Daly informed the Board that there have been two bills introduced for consideration this Florida legislative session, one of which proposes additional fees for electric vehicles. Molly also said she will send out the list that 1000 Friends of Florida posts on their website to the Board.

8. New Business

Kent Edwards added that there is also a bill introduced that would repeal last year's bill that impacts the City's tree protection ordinance. OSAR is working on renewing the City's certification as a Local Green Government through the Florida Green Building Coalition. The checklist contains a list of over 250 criteria and the City needs to achieve over 21% to be able to renew certification.

Hal Stern would like to discuss the City's comprehensive plan in the next meeting, and the information will be sent to the Board members in advance. Kelly Brandon commented that the comprehensive plan has a long time for implementation and project priorities are sent down through the chain of command, and Kent Edwards clarified that the comprehensive plan does not typically have projects but sets policy. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Board to review the comprehensive plan as it relates to sustainability and resilience goals.

9. Comments by Board Members

Sarah Lucas and Hal Stern thanked staff for their hard work. Susan Lebrun asked for the numbers of the bills that were discussed, and Molly Daly responded that Senate Bill 594 and House Bill 6027 relate to the preemption of polystyrene and House Bill 6023 and Senate Bill 596 relates to tree protection. This will be emailed to the Board. Kelly Brandon told the Board that they can find the comprehensive plan on the City's website, and Brian Ruscher added that he recommends they read both the "Goals, Objectives, Policies" and the "Data Inventory and Analysis" documents.

10. Comments by Staff

None

11. 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 11:23am.