

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021
WORKSHOP
9:00AM – 10:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Molly Daly, Assistant Sustainability Planner
Kent Edwards, Sustainability Officer

GUESTS/OTHERS:

Jack Indekeu

1. Call to Order

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

Jack Indekeu expressed his concern about noise mitigation in the city and the use of landscaping equipment, especially two-stroked leaf blowers. Communities such as Palm Beach, Naples, and Coral Gables have banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers since they are noisy, pollute and are bad for the environment. Jack asked if the Board and the City of Delray Beach was interested in taking on this issue and said that the noise exceeds the city's limits.

Kent Edwards said that the City has noise regulations and suggested talking to Neighborhood and Community Services about this issue. Jack Indekeu said that he understood this could be a sensitive issue, and Molly Daly added that some cities have done a rebate program to support businesses switch to electric-powered equipment.

Sarah Lucas thanked him for his time and comment. Hal Stern said that this would fall under the Board's purview since the Board is interested in reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the city.

5. Discussion of Green Board Annual Report

Sarah Lucas said that the report should have two parts: 1) activities undertaken since the last year or last report and 2) looking-forward/what the Board is expecting to focus on in the upcoming year. Many projects may be in both parts since they are ongoing and suggested that if there are items that the Board has not been able to get to that it would be important to also acknowledge those. Sarah Lucas listed the following topics to be included in the report: plastics, trees, outreach, and green business certification.

Hal Stern said that in the first section of the report that would review the last year, it would include the Green Business Certification Program and the impacts of COVID-19, the inaugural year of the tree planting campaign and the RFP for years two through five, green building ordinance and its progress, the Board's efforts to expand the scope of Ordinance 10-19, and resolutions regarding polystyrene products. Hal Stern added that the Board could add the hiring of Kent Edwards to the report.

Sarah Lucas suggested adding the Climate and Art event and EV chargers to the report. Susan Lebrun wants to add the Coastal Resilience Partnership and Brian Ruscher's, the City's Transportation Planner, involvement to the report. Sarah Lucas suggested highlighting interdepartmental cooperation related to sustainability in the report.

Lisa Shaheen asked to include updates on the purchasing shift to procure more earth-friendly products in the report. Susan Lebrun asked if the Board is interested in adding the ongoing frustration with getting a composting program in place. Hal Stern answered the Board could come up with strategies for the city to encourage composting in a way that is compliant with the SWA contract.

Lisa Shaheen expressed her idea to work with the City's golf course and have that be a central location where composting can happen and where people can voluntarily drop off compost. She thinks the "Let it Rot" company is very interesting and said maybe the Board can do something citywide working with organizations like this and WiseTribe. Schools should also be involved. Lisa Shaheen added that composting is simple, taking it out of the waste stream will make a huge difference, and the golf course can use the soil on the golf course similar to the process at Broken Sound.

Kent Edwards said that he would like to have someone from Florida Department of Protection (DEP) to present at the next Board meeting, referring to solid waste issues. The Board's presentation will need to be seven minutes long but can have a larger report that goes with it.

Hal Stern said that under the second section of the report, the Board can add managing the waste stream and a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to future projects. Sarah Lucas expressed her interest in adding environmental justice to the report and making sure that any of these issues take into account the wealth disparities and environmental injustices across the different populations in Delray Beach.

Lisa Shaheen suggested adding that the police department can transition to an electric or hybrid fleet to help address air quality.

Hal Stern asked about brownfields in the city and suggested an analysis of this as a way to address environmental justice concerns. Kent Edwards said that this is a program within Contamination Management and has a very cumbersome process that the State has to follow according to federal regulations. It would include brownfields and contamination sites. Hal Stern said that the Board could do an analysis of this or at least make the City aware of this to help remedy these problems.

Lisa Shaheen added sunscreen to the list of topics for the Board to consider. The State passed a preemption on the regulation of sunscreen, and the City of Key Largo is bringing this issue back up since the reefs are dying.

Hal Stern said that the issue with state preemptions could be included in the report and the Board can address how they are trying to work within those regulations while still effecting change. Kent Edwards said that during this legislative session, a bill was introduced about the DEP plastic bag report. Hal Stern supported using regulatory language to the Board's benefit and to support these issues.

Sarah Lucas asked if staff has any further suggestions, and Molly Daly answered that commercial recycling could be added. Hal Stern said that the Board can write a larger report and hit the highlights during the presentation that references the report.

Molly Daly asked how the Board would like to handle writing their priorities and recommendations moving forward. Last year, each Board member sent their priorities to Molly through email.

Susan Lebrun commented that items listed in the report could be organized into categories such as air, water, land, and waste. Hal Stern said they can also use the City's comprehensive plan as framework for the report, since it is organized into similar categories. Shaynaz Malleck said that she thinks that will be very helpful.

Lisa Shaheen said that the Cason Community Garden is for sale and could be developed, she asked if the City has any plans to buy it and if the Board has feedback on this. Molly Daly said that in the Board's establishing resolution says that the Board reviews city operations and provides recommendations, so if the Board wanted to recommend that the City purchases the property it can be included in the looking ahead section of the report.

Kent Edwards left the meeting at this time.

Hal Stern said that he thinks staff sending out an email with the list of topics and asking Board members to individually respond with their priorities is a good way to expedite this process. Lisa Shaheen asked if there has been a date set to present this to City Commission, and Molly Daly responded that a date has not been chosen yet since we do not know how long it will take to write the report. Materials for City Commission need to be submitted about a month in advance of the meeting. Given the amount of time it took last year, Hal Stern said that it might be June or July.

Molly Daly said that staff has been very busy with projects but emailing the Board the list of topics and asking for individual responses would be easy to do. The Board gave consensus to ask staff to come up with the categories for the report. Susan Lebrun commented that the categories should be basic so that anyone reading the report can understand it and it would be more appealing.

Sarah Lucas exited the meeting at this time.

Hal Stern reiterated that the next step will be to email those topics out to the Board. Christina Hammond asked staff to share last year's report with Board members. Molly Daly said she will email the presentation out and informed the Board that the presentation has been recently added to their webpage on the City's website.

Hal Stern asked if the City has a way to see how many people access this information online, and Molly Daly said that she will ask the Public Information Officer. Lisa Shaheen asked if the Public Information Officer is helping with outreach through social media and newspapers about these topics. Susan Lebrun said that Gina Carter, the Public Information Officer, has a lot on her plate with representing each of the City's departments.

Lisa Shaheen asked if the Board was allowed to do anything, or if it must be done individually as citizens. Hal Stern answered that Kelly Brandon has said that it cannot be done as a Board.

Molly Daly said that during the month of April there will be social media posts every few days about sustainability for Earth Month. Molly Daly also said that the Board could include recommendations in the report about social media and outreach.

Lisa Shaheen stated that the Board could ask to have their own social media posting and ability. Moving forward, maybe the City will be open to letting staff post more as long as it meets certain parameters. Lisa Shaheen asked with social media accounts the information will be posted on, and Molly Daly answered that it will be on the City's accounts for Instagram and Facebook accounts and the Board can share the posts on their personal Facebook pages.

Lisa Shaheen asked if the Board is interested in asking the City for their own social media account. Hal Stern answered that the City will not want to do this for liability reasons. If the Board is not able to talk to Homeowner Associations, then it is likely the Board will not be able to post on social media.

Molly Daly said that she will convene with Kent Edwards after the meeting to discuss the direction the Board has given today.

Susan Lebrun asked to put noise pollution on the agenda for next meeting, and Board members gave consensus.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lisa Shaheen and seconded by Susan Lebrun. Said motion passed unanimously and Hal Stern declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08am.