

**CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING 2023-11**

Held on Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Public Works Department located at 1050 Malabar Road, SW, Palm Bay, Florida. The minutes are not a verbatim transcript, but a brief summary of the discussions and actions taken at the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Philip Snyder, at 6:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	Phillip Snyder	Present
<b>VICE CHAIRPERSON:</b>	Logan Luse	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Kevin Smith	Absent
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Rebecca Ziegler	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Jane Higgins	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Susan B. Connolly	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Vacant	---

**CITY STAFF:**

Christeen Sullivan, Public Works Construction Project Manager; Ashley Hammond, Public Works Assets Management Specialist; Eric Blount, Public Works Physical Environment Operations Supervisor.

**ADOPTON OF MINUTES:**

**1. Meeting 2023-10; October 24, 2023.**

Motion by Ms. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Luse, to adopt the minutes with the following corrections: a) Item 1, under Other Business, the first sentence should reflect that funding was to be received from Conradina in the amount of \$2,000; and b) Item 1, under Other

Business, the last sentence should reflect the organization as Native Butterfly Flowers, not Native Florida Garden. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)**

1. Bill Battin, resident, made general comments. He said the Board unanimously supported the mandatory connection ordinance, but there was no discussion on the negative side of the ordinance. He said studies had been performed by Brevard County Groundwater Monitoring for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Save Our Indian River Lagoon which stated that septic and reclaimed communities were equally polluting, but sewer communities had high groundwater nutrient concentrations. He provided further information from the summary report. Mr. Battin asked that the Board review the City's responsibilities before City Council moved forward. He responded to questions posed by board members.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Native Plant demo garden update.**

Ms. Sullivan advised that she was processing the purchase order for the plants and was completing the Memorandum of Understanding with Conradina.

Ms. Higgins said she spoke with Nextera and although they did not fund the \$2,500 grant that was submitted through Space Coast Audubon, they decided to fund the grant directly to Conradina. Since the last Board meeting, Ms. Higgins said she had registered with Nextera as the Treasurer with Conradina and received the \$2,500 on behalf of Conradina. There was now \$4,500 available in funding. Ms. Higgins said she would design the signs for the Native Plant garden and printing would be done in-house by City staff.

**2. Sustainability Fair 2024 discussion – flyer updated.**

Ms. Sullivan advised that staff was working on the flyer. The date of event needed to be confirmed as the proposed date would fall on Easter weekend. Chair Snyder requested feedback on the flyer and reconsideration of the date for the event. Mr. Luse felt the font with the black lettering blended together. He preferred the beachy theme. Chair Snyder was concerned about "2024" standing out and liked "Be the Solution". He believed the Annual Sustainability Fair should be the focus.

Ms. Connolly wanted the blue color on the flyer to match their t-shirts from last year and asked if the Board wanted to get t-shirts this year. She said it could be worn at Council

meetings and events. She added that she was not impressed with the van on the flyer as it did not represent sustainability even though it was electric.

Ms. Ziegler was fine with the flyer as is, but if the Board wanted to make changes, she suggested reducing the font size for “2024” and increasing the font size for “Second Annual Sustainability Fair”. She had no issue with the van but felt the person holding a plant did not make sense. She suggested a rain barrel feeding a garden. Ms. Ziegler added that the shirts from last year did not have the words “Palm Bay” and asked that it be included. There was further discussion on modifications to the flyer and ensuring that there was a connection to sustainability. Ms. Sullivan said she would submit the recommendations to the artist and an updated flyer would be sent to the Board via email or wait until the next meeting. Ms. Connolly wanted to have a discussion with the artist at a public meeting. Chair Snyder advised that the QR code on the flyer was directed to the City’s homepage. He hoped it would be updated to the exact page for the event as vendors would not know where to go from the homepage. Ms. Connolly added that it would be more sustainable to send out flyers electronically versus using paper.

There was discussion on changing the date of the Sustainability Fair as it immediately preceded the Easter holiday. The Board concurred that the date remain as is – Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Tony Rosa Community Center, with indoor and outdoor activity options.

### **3. Nemo Circle Community Garden.**

Ms. Sullivan advised that staff had been visited by members of the Palm Bay Community Gardening Program, which was established by City Council in 2010. The Nemo Community Garden was established through the program. The garden had diminished somewhat and was no longer up to the previous standards. The program members advised that they did not have the time or resources to beautify the garden and since it was City-owned property, they asked if the City could revitalize it. The members had some funding in their treasury but wanted someone else to take it over. Ms. Sullivan advised them that she would bring it to the Board’s attention. She would provide the Board with the Gardening Program by-laws, membership information, restrictions, etc. Chair Snyder questioned what would happen to the group that ran the program if no one took over the garden. Ms. Sullivan said she would have to consult with the City Attorney.

Ms. Connolly felt the Community Garden could be incorporated into the Sustainability Fair. She suggested contacting Little Growers for the Nemo Community Garden. Mr.

Luse said that maybe the schools could be involved, such as science classes. Staff would present further information to the Board at its next meeting.

Bill Battin, resident, provided history on the garden and the issues that were occurring, but he thought it was a great concept.

#### **4. Hardin Lane Pond (Basin 13 Pond).**

Mr. Blount presented an overview of the Hardin Lane Pond (Pond). He said that back in 2005-2006, the City took a 2.5-acre parcel and decided to use it as a type of green stormwater infrastructure. The Pond was designed to have Florida native plants on it that would help to naturally clean the water instead of using manmade materials for same. Over time, the maintenance of the Pond had been lacking and overtaken with grass, and the native Florida plants that were planted no longer existed. Mr. Blount asked the Board if there were any organizations that would want to adopt this project or if the City would be able to an organization, such as Native Butterfly Flowers, to perform an assessment. Board members discussed options and concurred to communicate directly with Mr. Blount and provide an update at the next meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Upcoming meetings/events of interest (INFORMATIONAL).**

Board members and staff advised of the following:

- Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar – March 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Eau Gallie Civic Center in Melbourne.
- Ms. Connolly advised of a new non-profit organization, “Let’s be a Good Neighbor to the Lagoon, Inc.” She asked that Katherine Booth, President of the organization, be invited to be a vendor at the Sustainability Fair. The specific goal of the organization was to assist homeowner and condominium associations with their landscaping to save money.
- Ms. Higgins announced the following:
  - Conradina would be hosting holiday wreath making using native plants at its next monthly meeting.
  - Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference – January 21, 2024, at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach, and was hosted by Pelican Island Audubon. It was an all-day event.

Ms. Connolly said that an update had been provided by the City Manager in the past regarding sustainability in Palm Bay. She requested that the Board continue to receive the updates and they could be attached to the agenda packet for the Board and the public.

Chair Snyder announced his resignation from the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Chair Snyder, seconded by Ms. Connolly to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23pm

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Phillip Snyder, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Carrie Dwyer, Recorder