

**CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING 2024-01**

Held on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024, 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 Vice Chairperson Logan Luse at 6:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

|                          |                         |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| <b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>      | Vacant                  |         |
| <b>VICE CHAIRPERSON:</b> | Logan Luse              | Present |
| <b>MEMBER:</b>           | Kevin Smith             | Present |
| <b>MEMBER:</b>           | Rebecca Ziegler         | Present |
| <b>MEMBER:</b>           | Jane Higgins            | Present |
| <b>MEMBER:</b>           | Susan B. Connolly       | Present |
| <b>MEMBER:</b>           | Susan Phillips-Hardison | Present |

**CITY STAFF:**

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

**ADOPTON OF MINUTUES:**

**1. Meeting 2023-09; September 27, 2023.**

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Ziegler, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Meeting 2023-11; November 30, 2023.**

Motion by Ms. Connolly, seconded by Ms. Higgins, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Mr. Battin, resident, spoke about the conversion of old septic to new septic and the cost impact to homeowners. He was concerned about the conversion cost of \$15,000 to \$30,000, depending on utilization of current drain field, and the floor elevations determined by the Florida Board of Health, faster run-off for the swales and the impacts to stormwater.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Consideration of selecting a Chairperson.**

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Connolly, to elect Mr. Luse to the position of Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Luse, seconded by Ms. Ziegler, to elect Mr. Smith to the position of Vice Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**1. Nemo Circle Community Garden.**

Mr. Luse gave an overall summary of past discussions for the garden, including how to utilize the space for education or community involvement.

Ms. Sullivan had the information requested from the Board regarding the establishment of the garden. She would email same to the Board later in the week.

Board members discussed other ideas for the garden to include nearby school participation, such as a “Land Lab”. Ms. Sullivan explained that as the garden program was created by City Council, any modifications to the program would require Council approval.

**2. Hardin Lane Pond (Basin 13 Pond).**

Ms. Higgins asked staff if funding was available to reassess the types of plants as the plants could not thrive in that amount of water. Ms. Sullivan advised that there was a permit and the permit stated specifically which plants were to be used. Any changes to the permit would have to be reviewed by the City Engineer.

Ms. Connolly presented a video of her site visit with Mr. Blount to the Hardin Lane Pond.

Mr. Luse asked if the city would provide the plants or if an account to purchase plants had been established. Ms. Sullivan explained that it was not a budgeted item and estimated costs would have to be provided to staff to consult with the Finance Department about funding. Mr. Luse asked staff about the kind of workload or hours to commit for a Volunteer Day. Mr. Blount said only a couple of hours was needed for planting, and the city had already mowed and cleaned up the area.

Ms. Higgins stated that most important thing was “Right Plant, Right Place”, which was the principal emphasized by the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program. Ms. Hardison asked if board members could contact the Native Plant Society to perform an assessment. There was also a Native Plant Nursery in West Melbourne that had donated plants in the past and provided pro bono work. Ms. Sullivan said she would need cost estimates before determining if funding was available. She suggested having an engineer review before going out and getting an assessment from an outside source.

Staff would bring back the engineer’s review, design and any plant quotes for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Smith clarified that the Board was asking for review of the permit as it was done nineteen (19) years ago and there could be significant changes in soil and moisture content.

### **3. Flyer Updates – Sustainability Fair 2024**

Ms. Higgins asked about the vendor sign up and stated the City Manager was going to distributed it so there were no potential Sunshine Law violations by board members. Staff would confirm with the City Manager and advise the board accordingly.

Motion by Ms. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the Sustainability Fair flyer. Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Upcoming meetings/events of interest.**

Ms. Higgins provided an update on the Native Garden. She met with staff to review the Memorandum of Understanding. She noted that she had finalized sign design for solarization with the help of City staff. The City was working on a purchase order so staff could start on the solarization. Ms. Sullivan informed the Board that the City was sending out the plan for internal review to ensure there were no impediments to digging in that area and that all city departments had an opportunity to review it as well.

Mr. Luse read the proclamation for Florida Arbor Day, January 19, 2024. It was also read by the Mayor at the January 4, 2024, regular Council meeting.

Mr. Luse asked if there was an update regarding the septic to sewer conversion presentation by the Utilities Department. Ms. Sullivan replied that it was an action item for staff.

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on behalf of the City Manager's Office. The Public Information Officer was coordinating with the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition to increase messaging about the work the city was doing to improve the quality of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), Turkey Creek area. In the next few months, staff would be sending out press releases to the public on the importance of the IRL and sharing updates on projects. Project examples included stormwater projects such as baffle boxes and stormwater pond upgrades, septic to sewer conversions, and improvements to wastewater plants. Invitations would be extended to the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition to participate in city events.

Mr. Smith invited the Board to assist in the Science Fair at the schools as more judges were needed. The Birding Festivals and Science Bowl would be held in February, and the Florida Friendly Landscapes Seminar would be in March.

Ms. Ziegler invited board members to Sea Oats Planting on Saturday, February 17th.

Ms. Connolly advised that the City would be hosting the Second Social and Economic Vulnerability Workshop on February 6<sup>th</sup>, in City Hall Council Chambers. The deadline to register was February 2, 2024.

Mr. Luse introduced newly appointed board member Susan Phillips-Hardison.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

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Logan Luse, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Carrie Dwyer, Recorder