

**CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING 2024-05**

Held on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 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 Chairperson Logan Luse at 6:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**CITY STAFF:**

Eric Blount, Public Works Physical Environment Operations Supervisor; Carrie Dwyer, Administrative Secretary; Ashley Hammond, Public Works Asset Management Specialist; John McCall, Public Works Project Manager.

**ADOPTON OF MINUTES:**

**1. Regular Meeting 2024-04; April 24, 2024.**

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

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

There were no public comments.

Ms. Ziegler joined the meeting at approximately 6:03 p.m.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **1. Hardin Lane Pond (Basin 13 Pond) Update.**

Mr. Blount provided an update and advised that staff had visited Hardin Pond twice a week, flooding the finger to keep the plants wet. Mr. Luse asked if everything was living on the shoreline. Mr. Blount said that ninety percent (90%) of the plants had survived.

### **2. Sustainability Fair 2024 Follow Up**

The Board discussed finalizing a budget, location, theme, and flyer to be presented to staff by September 2024. Mr. Smith recommended a 5K or 3K run at Fred Poppe Regional Park to help generate funds to finance sustainability projects each year. He suggested calling the event the “Sustainability Shuffle”. Staff would contact the Utilities Department to confirm the date of the Water Conservation event for next year, obtain the cost of the first Sustainability Fair, and report information to the Board at the next meeting. Planning for next year’s event would be revisited at future meetings.

### **3. Native Garden Update**

There were no new updates since the last meeting. Ms. Higgins stated that Florida Power & Light (FPL) contacted her and was understanding of the delays. FPL did not want the funding returned but asked to be kept apprised.

### **4. Nemo Garden Update**

Mr. Blount shared photographs of the garden recovering from the fire in April. The fire had created fresh growth and the fire truck helped to widen the walking patch by driving through the area. Staff installed a wooden railing to prevent vehicles from driving through the garden. The gopher tortoise burrows were untouched. Ms. Higgins asked about the future of the garden. Mr. Blount explained the City’s plan was to let the garden return to its natural state and revisit it later.

Mr. Batten, resident stated after a fire there will be a massive growth of pepper trees and questions if volunteers can go out to mitigate the invasive plants.

### **5. Low Impact Development Update**

Ms. Connolly acknowledged the Board's receipt of the Low Impact Development Manual but noted there were draft pages and asked when it would be finalized. Mr. McCall informed the Board that Public Works had been working on it and in conjunction with Growth Management regarding the exfiltration systems. The City had several different projects such as Dairy Queen that was being built across the street from the City Hall Campus. The exfiltration system would help address and improve the drainage issues.

## **6. Upcoming Meetings/Events of Interest.**

Mrs. Hammond read an update provided by the City Manager:

- Photocatalytic Grant - the agreement with Brevard County would be executed upon approval by City Council at its special meeting on May 23, 2024.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems Malabar Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant – a budget had been set aside to start the project. The goal was to complete the work over the summer. This would provide improved traffic flow along the Malabar Road corridor from Jupiter Boulevard to Interstate 95, including San Filippo Drive.
- Baffle Box Retrofit Grant for Norwood Street – funding had been included in the budget, but the City was likely to receive funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to support. This would remove two (2) old baffle boxes and culverts to be replaced with new technology that would improve the quality of stormwater by removing additional sediment, debris, trash, and pollutants. It would also assist with lowering nitrogen and phosphorous levels at this stormwater outfall.
- City was using social media to remind the community to follow St. Johns River Water Management District's watering restrictions. They were offering free lawn moisture meter and water-wise kits to help residents determine if they were watering too much or too little. Kits were available at Palm Bay Utilities Administration, 250 Osmosis Drive in Bayside Lakes.
- Expressed her thanks to everyone on the Board and the Staff for their great work at Hardin Pond, Nemo Garden and Hardin Lane projects.

Mrs. Hammond stated that the Chair of Indialantic Sustainable Community wanted to have a countywide sustainability meeting and invited the Board. Two (2) members could sign up and attend on July 23, 2024.

Ms. Connolly invited the Board to the Annual Prosperity and Economic Opportunity Solution Summit on May 23, 2024, sponsored by the Florida Chamber of Commerce. The goal was to eliminate generational poverty or childhood poverty by fifty percent (50%) by the year 2030.

Ms. Higgins advised that there would be a workday to help with the Little Native Garden on Sunday May 26, 2024, at 8:30 am at the Degroodt Library.

There would also be a potluck at Erna Nixon Park on June 9, 2024, followed by a tour.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

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Logan Luse, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Carrie Dwyer, Recorder