

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING 2024-06

Held on Wednesday, the 26th day of June 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:

CHAIRPERSON:	Logan Luse	Present
VICE CHAIRPERSON:	Kevin Smith	Absent
MEMBER:	Rebecca Ziegler	Present
MEMBER:	Jane Higgins	Present
MEMBER:	Susan B. Connolly	Present
MEMBER:	Susan Phillips-Hardison	Present
MEMBER:	Vacant	

CITY STAFF:

Christeen Sullivan, Assistant Public Works Director; Eric Blount, Operations Superintendent; Carrie Snyder, Administrative Secretary; Ashley Hammond, Asset Management Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)

1. Bill Battin, resident, said an application had been submitted to the City for a 30-acre Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Richmond Cove Development on Gaynor Road, which stated there were no significant trees on the property. Mr. Battin met with staff and noted there was an Oak tree that was over 100 years old and was not listed on the developer's plan. Although the tree issue was revealed, the developers had damaged the roots, and the tree could potentially die. He asked the process for determining on-site trees and who was responsible for certifying the plans.

2. Lisa Jackson, resident, commented that there were multiple lots being cleared throughout her neighborhood, and she was upset that existing trees were being torn down. The Palm Bay Code of Ordinances (Code) stated that contractors were required to replace four (4) young trees and ten (10) shrubs when clearing lots. She was concerned about saving the trees throughout the city and asked that the Board make a recommendation to City Council on becoming a Tree City or to create a board to help support the growth of the trees in the city. Mrs. Phillips-Hardison requested information on the departments within the City that handled these situations. Mrs. Hammond explained the zoning landscape code was set by the Growth Management Department and final inspection was performed by the Building Department.

Mrs. Ziegler recommended continuing the discussion at the next meeting. She explained that the City Manager mentioned Palm Bay was once a designated Tree City and was interested in reacquiring that designation.

Mrs. Connolly said it appeared the City had ordinances that were not enforced or were being overlooked. She recommended a subcommittee or some way of redesigning the Board, so the City could be more responsive between the citizens and City Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation - GSI Solutions – Jessica Brusco, Ferguson Waterworks Geo & Stormwater

Ms. Brusco provided an overview of Green Stormwater Infrastructure solutions. She gave examples of rain gardens, bioswales, permeable surfaces, tree box filters, and underground storage. She explained the benefits of these solutions to help increase resilience within the city.

Mrs. Higgins inquired about federal or state grants to help implement green stormwater infrastructure solutions for the city. Ms. Brusco explained there was a 319(H) stormwater grant available that required a forty percent (40%) match and an education component.

Mrs. Phillips-Hardison proposed adding Green Stormwater Infrastructure solutions to the agenda for the next meeting to continue discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Hardin Lane Pond (Basin 13 Pond) Update

Mr. Blount reported on the Hardin Pond planting event that was held on April 20th. He stated that the plants placed on the finger of the pond were still green. The rain helped fill the pond, and everything was getting back to normal.

2. Sustainability Fair 2024 Follow Up

Ms. Snyder presented the cost breakdown from the Recreation Department for the Fair and would email the Board the costs from the Utilities Department once received. Ms. Higgins inquired about the deadline for the budget. Ms. Snyder responded it was in September.

Ms. Connolly requested a budget for the Board to do preliminary projects and research for resilience grants. Ms. Sullivan explained that the Board was encouraged to present any ideas to the City Council. The Public Works Department created projects and budgets for stormwater quality improvement, and other stormwater projects. Public Works had a Grants Manager that was currently working on multiple grant applications including some referenced by Ms. Brusco. Staff was actively working on finding funding, as well as alternative funding for these projects.

Mr. Blount gave an update on the 5K race as requested by Mr. Smith at the last meeting. The race was possible, and members of staff had some questions, but they were unable to attend this meeting. Staff would try to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Blount shared that the Public Works Department had received a new Vac Truck. Management approved to place the Sustainability Fair Logo “Be the Solution” on the truck to show support for the Board.

3. Native Garden Update

Ms. Sullivan shared that due to construction of the new building, the location or relocation of the garden had not been determined.

4. Nemo Garden Update

Mr. Blount explained that the City’s plan was to let the garden return to its natural state. There was a lot of greenery that was low to the ground, and the turtles were thriving.

5. Low Impact Development Update

Ms. Sullivan shared that Public Works staff had spoken with the architect for Building E (additional building at City Hall campus). The architectural firm had indicated they would

be present for the August meeting to discuss the low impact development plans for the building.

Ms. Phillips-Hardison wanted a snapshot of the current low impact development projects within the City. Ms. Sullivan stated that the City had installed seven (7) nutrient separating baffle boxes within the Turkey Creek area earlier this year, and the City just received an allocation from the State to install another six (6) boxes. Mr. Blount explained the City had seventeen (17) Nutrient Separating Baffle Boxes and seventy-five (75) Inlet Stormwater Filters across the city. One of the educational lids with the glass viewing was on Port Malabar Boulevard near the intersection of Apollo Circle, on the east side of Turkey Creek.

6. Upcoming Meetings/Events of Interest (INFORMATIONAL)

Ms. Phillips-Hardison shared a potential presenter GEI Works located in Palm Bay. They were a manufacturer of marine construction. In addition, she provided some information on a grant opportunity for congestion mitigation and air quality Improvement.

Mr. Blount shared that the Indian River Lagoon Regional Planning Meeting presented by the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce would be held on July 24, 2024, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and July 25, 2024, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The first hour on July 24th was open to all citizens. Mr. Blount asked if a member of the Board wanted to attend with staff. The Board concurred that Ms. Phillips- Hardison and Ms. Connolly would attend.

Mr. Luse spoke about the Brevard County Municipal Sustainability Conference to be held on July 23, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, at Florida Tech College. Ms. Connolly and Ms. Higgins would attend.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Logan Luse, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Carrie Dwyer, Recorder