



**CITY OF COCONUT CREEK
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Government Center
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063**

**Date: January 21, 2020
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2020-0121**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Irene Espinosa at 4:05 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL

Chair Irene Espinosa
Vice Chair Dan Mackey
Doreen Chamberlain
Susi Glatt
Jack Vesey
Daniel Gallagher, Alternate (arrived at 4:13 p.m.)

Also present: Urban Health Partnerships Health and Community Development Program Manager Arely Lozano Cantu, Senior Planner Linda Whitman, and Agenda Specialist Daphne Haynie.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING(S). (2019-1119)

MOTION: Chamberlain/Mackey – To approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2019, meeting.

Upon roll call, the Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

4. UPDATES (OLD BUSINESS)

VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR

Senior Planner Linda Whitman presented a draft video of the next Virtual Garden Tour for review by the board, and the board had no changes to the video.

Ms. Whitman discussed the topic for the next Virtual Garden Tour video, and advised that Vice Chair Mackey had suggested a residential yard with plants that were specific for bird attraction. She noted that the commercial garden they discussed at the previous meeting would not be ready for filming until spring. Vice Chair Mackey provided background information on the bird attracting garden for the next video, commenting that Coconut Creek resident Jay Paredes was a wild life photographer with a wildlife attracting garden. The board viewed a YouTube video by Mr. Paredes entitled,

“Backyard Birds.” Chair Espinosa asked that the name of each bird species be included in the video.

In response to Chair Espinosa, Ms. Whitman provided an update on the utility box wraps, advising that the latest installment was located at Winston Park Boulevard and Lyons Road. She advised that the next installment would be located on Lyons Road just north of the Sawgrass Expressway, which would be the fifth completed installment.

5. NEW BUSINESS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Whitman advised the board that the City Commission was considering an amendment to the City’s Code of Ordinances with regard to advisory boards. She stated that the ordinance proposed new membership requirements, and noted that the proposed function of the board was updated to reflect the board’s current responsibilities as liaisons to the community on environmental matters.

She discussed the membership qualifications and advised that representation of environmental interests in the following fields was proposed: architecture, biology, climate change, education, engineering, environmental science, forestry, gardening, geology, horticulture, law, sustainability, urban planning, waste disposal, or alternatively have a commitment for civic activity, or preference for applicants who have completed the Coconut Creek Citizens’ Academy. Discussion ensued regarding Coconut Creek Citizens’ Academy, and Ms. Whitman advised that she would provide information on the upcoming academy.

SOLAR USAGE IN COCONUT CREEK

Ms. Whitman reminded the board that there was consensus at the last meeting for Mr. Vesey to discuss solar energy opportunities within the City. Mr. Vesey shared his experience with the installation of solar arrays at his residence, commenting that there was a reduction in his utility bills. He shared several websites that provided information on solar initiatives and suggested that the board promote the availability of solar opportunities to the community.

Discussion ensued regarding the installation of the solar panel system at the Government Center, and Ms. Whitman advised that the project would be completed in partnership with Florida Power and Light (“FP&L”). She explained that the project was being designed, and she would provide updates to the board on the progress of the project. She further stated that the City partnered with FP&L on the installation of the solar canopy structure at the Recreation Center and was also working with them on a pilot program for electric vehicle charging stations. Discussion ensued regarding the solar canopy structure, and Ms. Whitman noted that she would inform the board when information was available regarding the amount of solar energy produced at the location.

Discussion ensued regarding tracking the growth of residential and commercial solar installations in the City through the number of building permits issued. The board discussed opportunities to educate the public on the benefits of solar energy, including education tables at the Butterfly Festival and Arbor Day Free Tree Giveaway, as well as using CreekTV and the CreekTALK series to share information.

FOOD FOR ALL BROWARD INITIATIVE

Ms. Whitman introduced Urban Health Partnerships Health and Community Development Program Manager Arely Lozano Cantu, who gave a brief overview of the Urban Health Partnerships organization. She explained that the Food For All Broward initiative provides technical support to municipalities to enhance food access through urban planning and public health, and advised that the City Commission recently passed a resolution in support of the initiative.

Ms. Cantu discussed several goals within the City's Green Plan and how food access could be integrated into the goals, including the reduction of carbon gas emissions and improving transportation and mobility. She spoke about the role of the board in promoting food access through the initiatives they were working on and her role in guiding the City to implement healthier food options. She gave examples of policy and system changes implemented in other cities and those that could be implemented through the City's Green Plan. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Whitman discussed the follow potential opportunities that staff identified in collaboration with Urban Health Partnerships:

- Reporting to Audubon International;
- Food networks along City greenways; and
- Promotion of front and back yard gardens.

There was discussion on community gardening, and Ms. Cantu gave an example of a garden fleet in Seattle, Washington. She advised that the Urban Farming Institute was a program partner that could assist with City initiatives, and discussion ensued with regard to a garden lecture series with the Urban Farming Institute. Discussion ensued with regard to continuing the Food for All Broward initiative discussion at the next board meeting and working to schedule a lecture series on the topic in the fall.

BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

Ms. Whitman discussed the Butterfly Festival being held on February 29, and asked the board members to provide coverage for the education booth. She advised that two members were needed for each time slot. The board decided on the following times:

- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Gallagher/Vesey
- 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Chamberlain/Glatt
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Espinosa/Mackey

Ms. Whitman also advised that a volunteer from the City would be present at the booth to provide assistance. Discussion ensued regarding the handout materials and giveaways that would be available for distribution at the booth.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Ms. Whitman advised that a public records request was made for the email address and phone number of each Environmental Advisory Board member. She noted that the requestor shared information about an upcoming lobbying event on February 6 in

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Tallahassee to discuss issues related to water, air, and clean energy.

In response to a question from Ms. Glatt, Ms. Whitman advised that there was no update regarding the Florida Turnpike expansion.

Ms. Whitman summarized the agenda items for the next meeting, including further discussion on the Food For All Broward initiative and introduction of the new Public Works Project Coordinator to discuss updates on the recycling program.

Ms. Whitman mentioned that she met with Florida Power & Light about electric vehicle charging stations, and noted that staff was researching the feasibility of locating charging stations at the Recreation Center, Community Center, Sable Pines Park, and City Hall. She advised that updates would be provided as the process continued.

7. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was tentatively set for March 24, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Leslie Wallace May
Leslie Wallace May, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: Daphne Haynie

9/15/2020

Date