

Sustainability Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2020

**I. Welcome**

A. Roll Call

**Present:** Ryan Goldman, Bradette Jepsen, Jennifer Ketterlin, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Emolyn Shaw, Lawrence Szeliga, and Derric Tay. **Absence Excused:** Marcus Austin. **Staff:** Carrie Kashar (Sustainability Officer).

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the month of December meeting was approved by the Board, but there was just a minor edition which was to add the name of a Board member who was in attendance to the previous month's meeting.

B. Events and Announcements

1. Water Matters Day will be held on March 14, 2020, at Tree Tops Park which is an event coordinated by Broward County.
2. The Gardening for Wildlife Workshop will be held on February 29, 2020, at Nob Hill Soccer Club Park.
3. Celebrate Original Sunrise: Village Art Plaza Kickoff will also be held on February 29, 2020, which is going to be across from City Park which is currently under construction near the Village Civic Center.
4. Board member reminded the Board about the ECISMA benefit hockey game which will be held on February 29, 2020, at the BB&T Center.
5. The Florida Supreme Court ruled against the City of Coral Gables and cited with the Retail Plastic Bag Federation.
6. The State of Florida will be purchasing 20,000 acres of land in the Everglades to prevent oil drilling.
7. Board member, Ryan Goldman, thanked the Board for voting him in as Chair of the Board, and Jennifer Ketterlin, as the Co-Chair. He also mentioned that he was voted as President of the South Florida Association of Environmental Professionals for the next 2 years.
8. The Board meeting for November was changed from November 11, 2020 to November 18, 2020, due to the Veteran's Day holiday, as the City will be closed that day.

**II. Public Open Discussion**

There was one person in attendance from the public and that was Brandon Guity, the high school student who was appointed to the Board. He was not able to participate during the meeting because he had not taken his oath of office at the time of the meeting.

**III. Old Business**

A. Earth Day Festival Volunteers and Ideas

The Earth Day Festival will be held on March 28, 2020, and the Sustainability Officer requested Board members volunteer to help with the booths either in

the morning or in the afternoon. Discussion ensued as to the different ideas for the festival which will be done to promote the Pass Up Plastics Pledge.

The Sustainability Officer gave the Board an update about the burrowing owls that are in the Sportsplex Park and Flamingo Park. She noted the owls are still at the Sportsplex Park and the field is still closed, as the owls have not relocated to the artificial burrow. However, the City has received the permit from the State for Flamingo Park, and the owls have been relocated to the artificial borrow which was due to the help of Project Perch. She reiterated the nesting season for the owls would begin on February 15, 2020 and ended on July 15, 2020.

Discussions continued about sustainable building materials, and of ideas for different vendors which may be feasible to be invited to participate in the Earth Day festival for this year, and for future years.

- B. Adopt-A-Street Cleanup Report by Larry Szeliga  
Board member, Larry Szeliga, reported he was sick and was unable to complete the cleanup which he was scheduled to do. However, he will plan to complete the cleanup by the end of the month.

The Board has decided to do a public Adopt-A-Street cleanup which will include all the Board members. This event is scheduled to take place on April 18, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- C. Discuss, List, and Assign Action Steps for SAB 2020 Priority Items  
**Promote Pass Up Plastics** - Discussion ensued about different events and how the Board can help to promote the Pass Up Plastics Pledge in restaurants and businesses. The Sustainability Officer will provide outreach materials. This will be discussed at the meeting in March 2020.

**Rate Sheet for Cultural Facilities** - Board member, Marcus, will send Carrie examples of accessibility rate sheets pertaining to the list of cultural facilities to visit, and their rates of accessibility.

**Tree Canopy Issues** – The new Residential Landscape Beautification Program will offer trees to homeowners that includes installation. Discussion ensued about different types of trees and/or plants which may be either invasive or non-invasive to the environment. It was noted their options may make the City's current approved plant list to be more stringent, restrictive, or better for the environment.

The Sustainability Officer reported to the Board she has been working with the GIS division to prepare a map detailing residential properties within a ½ mile of green spaces within the City.

**Meetings with Other Advisory Boards** - Discussion ensued in reference to Board members attending other advisory board meetings in reference to getting feedback at either community events or workshops from these other boards in order to develop survey questions. Board members volunteered to prepare information regarding different boards.

The Board members will look into:

- a) finding out when each board they have agreed to attend meeting is being held;
- b) developing a list of questions that may be helpful to know;
- c) relating sustainability action plan items and initiatives that would be pertinent.

#### **IV. Other**

Board Chair, Ryan Goldman, thanked N. Skye McCloud for chairing the Board for many years, and noted her service was very much appreciated.

Board member announced attendance at the Sunrise Ride & Drive event. The Sustainability Officer gave a brief description of the Green Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the City's first electric fleet vehicle and charging station in January 2020. This was in partnership with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and Clean Cities Coalition which included a test drive of electrical vehicles for the employees.

#### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

A. Discussion of the remaining three action steps for SAB 2020 Priority items.

#### **V. Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed without opposition.

Minutes were prepared by: Donna Moore

Respectfully Submitted by: Dr. Carrie Kashar