

Sustainability Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021

I. **Welcome**

A. Roll Call

Present: Marcus Austin, Bradette Jepsen, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Michelle Polanco (High School Student), Lawrence Szeliga, and Derric Tay.

Absence Excused: Ramon Colon and Ryan Goldman. **Staff:** Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer; and Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the month of January 21, 2021 meeting was approved by the Board.

C. Updates and Announcements

1) The UF/IFAS Extension of Broward County is conducting a Rain Barrel Workshop virtual event on June 1, 2021.

2) The Senior Center will be grand re-opening on June 2, 2021.

3) The Sustainability Officer read the response to the recommendations the Board gave to Amazon at the previous meeting in January 2021:

- **Board Recommendation:** Reduce lighting pollution

- *Amazon's Response:* They are building a 32'-6" high Berm/Wall to the west and the south at the perimeter of their truck court. The berm/wall is 7'-6" higher than the light source which is 25 feet. The light source is not visible.

- **Board Recommendation:** Installation of sidewalks along Hiatus Road and North of NW 44th Street

- *Amazon's Response:* They will be adding a sidewalk on the west side of Hiatus Road, and a crosswalk at 44th Street to provide access to the Greenway.

- **Board Recommendation:** Exceed minimum landscaping to include native species above the landscaping codes

- *Amazon's Response:* They will exceed both the minimum landscape requirements and are planting larger trees than required by code. There will be two rows of trees added on the outside of the berm/wall for the entire length of the berm/wall, on both the west and south side for additional buffering to the adjacent neighbors. Additional buffer trees will be added along the west property line.

- **Board Recommendation:** Include trees and shrubs to increase overall habitat

- *Amazon's Response:* The enhanced habitats for wildlife will be provided for at 100% of the wetlands preserve along the west property line, and approximately 80% of the balance of the landscaping.

- **Board Recommendation:** Certify the property as a wildlife habitat
 - *Amazon's Response:* They qualify and will be applying for the certificate.
- **Board Recommendation:** Install Solar now versus to be determined
 - *Amazon's Response:* The roof and electrical system will be installed to accept a transition to solar photovoltaic.
- **Board Recommendation:** Include workplace bicycle facilities for employees such as bike parking, lockers, and showers for commuting employees.

Amazon's Response: They will be providing bike parking and lockers but no showers.

There was a discussion amongst the Board members as to concerns they may have had based on the responses from Amazon. There was an inquiry about the City's Tree Program, and it was noted that there was already a waiting list for residents.

II. Public Open Discussion

There was no one from the public in attendance.

III. Presentation

- A. Good and Green Year in Review – Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer
The Sustainability Officer discussed what was accomplished within the year 2020 with the following:

Outreach Virtual Activities:

There were virtual engagements which were completed:

- 1) There was a Tree and House plant rehab which occurred on 4/24/20
- 2) Bye Bye Plastics which occurred on 4/27/20
- 3) Love Your H₂O – Water Conservation which occurred on 5/7/20
- 4) Soarin' with Bird Conservation which occurred on 5/15/20
- 5) Free Seminole Pumpkin Seeds were offered to residents via the Good and Green Newsletter in the 9/2020 edition.
- 6) Broward Water Partnership Conservation Pays which occurred on 11/16/20
- 7) Completed social media/new webpages
- 8) The Good and Green Newsletter now has 2,000 subscribers.

Outreach In-person Activities:

- 1) Boo Thru: Trunk and Treat which occurred on 10/31/20
- 2) Sunrise Earth Day: *Green to Go* which occurred on 4/10/21

Be a Butterfly Hero

The Sustainability Officer noted that due to the pandemic no workshops were held last year. However, the following occurred:

- 1) Prior to the pandemic the last workshop was the Gardening for Wildlife Workshop which occurred on 2/29/20, and was attended by approximately 65 individuals.
- 2) The City certified Fire Station #83 and a butterfly garden was installed at the station.
- 3) There was a Bee Rescue Project at the Utilities Administrative Complex which resulted in approximately 300,000 bees and larvae.
- 4) There were artificial burrows which were installed at the Springtree Water Treatment Plant.
- 5) The City won the 2020 Broward Emerald Award for the Sunrise Sportsplex Park.

New Good and Green Video Series Launched

The Sustainability Officer noted to the Board that there were two Good and Green Videos which were produced:

- 1) The first episode is a virtual tour of the Dan Pearl Library butterfly garden with her explaining the four must haves for a wildlife habitat.
- 2) The second episode was a collaboration with Project Perch with a librarian doing a storybook reading of "Buffy the Burrowing Owl".
- 3) There will be a production in two weeks on the third episode.

Adopt-A-Street/Keep Broward Beautiful

- 1) During the pandemic there were 36 cleanups, 100 volunteers, 144 volunteer hours, and 364 pounds were removed.
- 2) Westpine Middle School has adopted NW 50th Street in front of the Sportsplex Park and will do the clean-up from Pine Island Road to NW 90th Avenue.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Annual Report 2020 for Sunrise

- 1) There were 1,252 applications submitted
- 2) \$9,355,641 were the total financed
- 3) 533 Projects were completed
- 4) 2,328,663 were the estimated energy savings (kWh)
- 5) 215 kW Solar capacity were installed
- 6) There were 170 energy efficiency projects
- 7) There were 18 Renewable Energy Projects completed
- 8) There were 391 Hurricane Protection Projects

Broward Solar Co-Op

- 1) There were 18 Co-Op participants (total of 250 registered, 139 reviews were staged)
- 2) The total system size was 198.62 kW (signed contract or completed)
- 3) No homes in Sunrise signed installed solar through the program

Water Conservation Pays Rebates Report for Sunrise

- 1) 248 toilet rebates were received (Fiscal Year total)
- 2) NatureScape Irrigation Services (NIS) – 14 evaluations, 54% water demand savings at some of the City's facilities
- 3) NIS Residential Irrigation Rebates: 56 applications, 17 home evaluations, 10 rebates were provided
- 4) The City of Sunrise received the 2020 Water Partner of the Year Award

Drop Savers Poster Contest

There was a limited amount of art which was submitted by the students this year, but the winners were posted at the Earth Day Celebration which occurred in April 2021.

Broward Leaders Resilience Roundtable

Broward County has officially launched the Broward Resilience Dashboard in April 2021 which was to take the information from all the municipal partners and a web-related storyboard was created. The purpose of this dashboard was intended to support shared communication and outreach for collective engagement around the county, and for them to be transparent about the resilient needs and investments which are going on throughout the county. The Sustainability Officer indicated that she would send the link via email to the Board for them to review.

Upcoming Events

- 1) Pollinator Week is scheduled for the last week of June. A possible event will be scheduled at the Dan Pearl Library which will showcase the new Good and Green Video Series Episode 1 butterfly gardening video.
- 2) There is a potential for a butterfly garden to be installed at the newly renovated Senior Center.
- 3) The Sustainability Officer noted that she has been planning a large garden to be located behind the Civic Center, and has submitted an AARP Grant to help with the funding. The installation of this garden will be in October 2021.
- 4) Broward County Water Partnership has a pilot program known as the Great Toilet Trade Out for low to moderate income households. Broward County will be selecting five of the partner cities to participate in this program, and an application was submitted for the City to be a part of this program. The purpose of the program would be that 10 homes in the census track area would be selected and a contractor would be installing 2 high efficiency toilets, showerheads and aerators.
- 5) Other events that the City has scheduled for Fall 2021 are the Cultural Festival which is scheduled for November 13, 2021, and Winter Wonderland which is scheduled for December 11, 2021.

Sunrise Sustainability Action Plan - City Operations GHG Reduction

- 1) There will be approximately 39 facilities now being tracked using EnergyStar® Portfolio Manager which will allow staff to see the impact of the energy

efficiency projects on a particular facility, and to rate achieve EnergyStar® Score for certain facilities.

- 2) The LED lighting retrofit for the street lights is currently being done in collaboration with FPL in order to upgrade the street lights to LED lighting, as it will be a good energy saver project. Phase One has been completed and they are moving from east to west within the City.
- 3) The updates for the Alternative Fuels and the EV Charging Infrastructure/Green Fleet Strategy are that the City has received proposals for programs offering public charging stations for free to the City that are being reviewed.
- 4) Renewable Energy projects – there was a walk through with a vendor on solar thermal installations and they found 2 buildings that may be feasible, and solar photovoltaic is designed on the new Utility building which should be going into construction in Fall 2021.
- 5) Waste Reduction – The Good and Green Events Policy was passed and was to be effective January 1, 2020, but due to the pandemic it was not able to be fully implemented as planned. Both the Good and Green Events Policy and Pass Up Plastics Campaign will be reinigorated this year.

IV. Other

A. Discussion of Various Topics

The Board members inquired about the Broward Leaders Resilience Dashboard. It was noted that only Deerfield Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Hallandale Beach had already mapped projects on the dashboard.

There were also discussions about different City projects which are being completed though the Capital Projects Department, and the type of pesticides that the City uses on its landscaping.

V. Old Business

A. Adopt-A-Street Cleanup Date for the Next Cleanup Event

It was discussed that Marcus would be the Group Leader for the Adopt-A-Street cleanup events. The next cleanup event was scheduled for Sunday, May 23, 2021.

VI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 9, 2021

A. Capital Project – Projects Update

VII. Adjourn

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

Minutes were prepared by: Donna Moore

Respectfully Submitted by: Carrie Kashar