

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 6:00 pm

Location/Address: Flamingo Park – Meeting Room (12855 NW 8th Street, Sunrise 33323)

Board Secretary: Donna Moore

Board Liaison: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer

- I. A. Welcome – Chair, Ryan Goldman, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call

Present: Marcus Austin, Ryan Goldman, Bradette Jepsen, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Raven Osborne (High School Student), Lawrence Szeliga, and Derric Tay. Absence Excused: Stephen Baughan, and Natasha Inniss.
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2022, Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting was made by Board member, Bradette Jepsen, and it was seconded by Board member, Lawrence Szeliga. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- C. Updates and Announcements
 - a. The Woofstock celebration which was held on February 5th was a success.
 - b. The Sustainability Officer introduced Lexi Smith, Sustainability Intern, who has volunteered and helped with the City's Earth Day Festivals during previous years. She related to the Board that Lexi was completing her Environmental Science Degree at Nova University, and one of her photographs of a White Ibis bird was selected by the National Wildlife Federation to be a part of their Trees for Wildlife Greeting Card assortment.
 - c. The City of Sunrise Sawgrass Sanctuary Park was selected as an Emerald Award winner. This will be held at the Sawgrass Sanctuary on February 24, 2022, at approximately 9:30 a.m., and the Sustainability Officer requested that she would like to see one member in attendance as a representation of the Board at the awards ceremony.
 - d. The City has received a response from the Arbor Day Foundation that the City has met the certification requirements for 2021.
 - e. The Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has notified the City that their grant was approved, and that it was an accelerated funding which will be distributed during this fiscal year. The project for the bike lanes for 94th Ave, NW 42nd Street, and NW 50th Street were approved, and so were the requests for the development of 25 new bus shelters.
 - f. During the month of March from March 1st through March 31st the ConservationPays Program will be doing an online game. This will be promoted to all residents, and different prizes will be awarded to the winners.
- II. Public Open Discussion
 - a. There was no one in attendance from the public at the meeting.
- III. Presentations – *Trees are Cool*, Rose Bechard-Butman, NatureScope Program Coordinator, ISA Certified Arborist, Broward County Natural Resources Division. She presented the following information to the Board:
 - a. Discussed the importance of trees, and the different ways trees can help the environment wherein:

- i. Healthy trees increase value with age
 - ii. Increases property value
 - iii. Beautify our surroundings
 - iv. Purify the air
 - v. Saves energy by providing cooling shade from the summer's heat
 - vi. Conserves water and reduces soil erosion
- b. The economic benefits of trees can be both direct and indirect benefits, as the property values of homes with landscaping are usually 5% - 25% higher than those without landscaping.
- c. It was noted the census showed that approximately between 900-1,000 people have moved to Florida on a daily basis.
- d. Broward County's Tree Canopy goal is 40% but the current average is 20%. The City of Sunrise estimated tree canopy coverage is 19.6%.
- e. During Hurricane Irma Broward County parks lost 1,800 trees.
- f. It was noted that 98.7% of Broward County's urban area is registered or certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat.
- g. It was also important to note there were 235 public schools, and 65 charter or private schools within Broward County which were Certified Schoolyards.
- h. Climate change is expected to:
 - i. Increase the occurrence of extreme weather
 - ii. Intensify the frequency and intensity of tropical storms
 - iii. Cause changes in the season
- i. Different species of native plants and trees were discussed which would increase the resiliency and tree canopy. It was noted that the native plants and trees are more adaptable to Florida's climate, and generally require less water when established.
- j. The two ways to become Certified with NatureScape are to:
 - i. Certify with the National Wildlife Federation
 - ii. Be recognized by the University of Florida as a Florida Yards and Neighborhoods
- k. It was noted there was financing available through the Broward County Tree Trust Program as it was developed to help cities in receiving finances, so as to purchase and plant trees within their cities.

There was discussion amongst the Board members and questions were posed to the presenter about their concerns about trees within the county.

IV. Old Business

- a. The Chair reminded the Board that the next Adopt-A-Street cleanup was scheduled for February 12, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Old Hammock Park.

V. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

- a. Presentation from a representative from either the Community Development or Public Works Department.
- b. The Chair instructed the Board to bring specific locations and ideas to the next meeting where they would like to plant trees within the City.

- c. The Sustainability Officer will be printing out maps so that the Board can cross reference them.
- VI. Adjourn
- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N. Skye McCloud, and it was seconded by Board member, Lawrence Szeliga. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Transcribed by: Donna Moore, Board Secretary

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S.S. 286.0105.