

## Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm

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

Board Secretary: Donna Moore

Board Liaison: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer

- I. A. Welcome – Chair, Ryan Goldman, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
  - a. Roll Call

Present: Ryan Goldman, Natasha Inniss, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Brianna Concepcion (High School Student), Lawrence Szeliga, and Derric Tay. Staff: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer, Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant, and Lexi Smith (Intern). Absence Excused: Marcus Austin and Bradette Jepsen. Absence Not Excused: Stephen Baughan.
- B. Welcome New Board Member, Brianna Concepcion
  - a. Brianna Concepcion was introduced by the Chair, Ryan Goldman. She indicated she was a senior at Piper High School, and was the new Chair of the Environmental Club at her school. She was currently recruiting students to be a part of the club prior to the opening of the school year.
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - b. A motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2022, Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting was made by Board member, N. Skye McCloud, and it was seconded by Board member, Derric Tay. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- D. Updates and Announcements:
  - a. The Grand Re-Opening of the Sunrise Athletic Complex (SAC) will be held on July 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  - b. The Grand Re-Opening of the Welleby Park will be held on July 30, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  - c. The National Night Out will be held on August 2, 2022, at the Sunrise Public Safety Building from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
  - d. The Back to School Roundup will be held on August 6, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Good and Green booth will be at this event, and will be joined by Dream in Green which is a non-profit organization located in Miami that has a Green Schools Program, and the Solar United Neighbors which is also a non-profit who will be there with some solar activities for the students as well.
  - e. The Sustainability Officer also reported that the Broward County countywide Vulnerability Assessment was officially kicked off, and it will be a one to two-year project. The consultant selected for this endeavor was Hazen and Sawyer, as the assessment was designed to bring all the cities within Broward County up to the new Florida State’s standards. This will also allow the City of Sunrise to be eligible for future funding opportunities.
  - f. Board member, N. Skye McCloud, spoke out about a virtual event “Save the Manatees: Stop Pollution at the Source” which will be held on July 20, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Sustainability Officer will be sending a link to the Board in reference to this event. A book Skye mentioned was *Manatee Insanity*

by Craig Pittman, and the Sustainability Officer will be sending a link of the website to the Board.

II. Public Open Discussion

- a. There was no one in attendance from the public at the meeting.

III. A. Presentations – *Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact’s Compact Climate Assessment Tool (C-CAT)*, Russell Paez, Associate Director of US Programs, Institute for Sustainable Communities. She presented the following information to the Board:

- a. In 2020 the Compact developed the Compact Climate Assessment Tool (C-CAT) in response to municipalities as a way to prioritize climate action, and publicly communicate progress on 11 key actions that local governments can take to reduce emissions and advance adaptation initiatives, while integrating equity into these actions across the region.
- b. They are in partnership with 12 dozen municipalities, and an equity advisory team comprising of community leaders in the region.
- c. In 2021 the Compact invited the 111 local and tribal governments in the region to respond to a voluntary survey, so as to notify them of a baseline understanding of regional progress toward the 11-climate mitigation and adaptation priorities identified. It was noted this was intended to be an annual survey so as to track these actions.
- d. The C-CAT priority actions were divided into two action areas across the region:
  1. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Priority Actions which included areas such as GHG Targets, Building Efficiency, Solar, Electric Vehicles (EV), and Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT).
  2. Adaptation Priority Actions which included areas such as Internal Assessment, Vulnerability Analysis, Resilience Plan, Community Planning, Policy, and Capital Projects.
- e. There were a few municipalities who participated in a survey in 2020, and approximately 23% gave feedback about climate actions and their results.
- f. The survey was revised and narrowed down from 168 questions to 71 questions.
- g. It was noted the results for the survey were a year behind because the responses were from 2020 and were published in 2021, while the results from 2021 will be published in 2022.
- h. The deadline the municipalities have to submit their responses to the survey will be due by the end of August 2022.

B. Presentations – *Community Greening*, Mark Cassini and Matt Shipley, Co-Founders of Community Greening. They presented the following information to the Board:

- a. The Community Greening organization began in 2016 in Delray Beach. However, they currently have an office at the campus of Lynn University in Boca Raton, and is now branching out to Broward and Miami Dade counties.
- b. The organization started in Delray Beach due to the community being upset that canopy trees were being torn down, and palm trees were being installed instead. Many of the residents met to inquire how could they do something about it, and even approached the City with their concerns.

- c. Both men approached the City and other foundations for funding, and has involved the community to work with them on projects. They have a very diverse Board with 9 full-time employees, 7 part-time employees, trucks, and a nursery of approximately 5,000 trees.
- d. They are currently working with different cities such as Delray Beach to install 10,000 trees by 2025, and increase their tree canopy from 23% to 28%; City of Boynton Beach to install 45,000 trees by 2035, and increase their tree canopy from 16%, and the City of Boca Raton whose tree canopy was 26%, and would like to increase their tree canopy to 28%.
- e. The Sustainability Officer noted that the City of Sunrise currently has a tree canopy of approximately 20%, which has increased from 16% based on the City's own tree canopy assessment which was completed recently.
- f. It was noted that in lower income areas there is less tree canopy, and they focus their efforts in those neighbors first because they have been able to establish community outreach, and these relationships are important to them.
- g. They have different programs they have implemented which includes parks, youth tree teams, schools, tree giveaways, urban orchards, and residential.
- h. They have achieved different awards as a non-profit organization including the 2021 Arbor Day Foundation Spirit of Arbor Day Award.

Discussion ensued from the Board about the types of trees they have planted within their projects, ways to determine where to plant trees within different parts of the City, and the types of trees to plant, so as to improve the tree canopy, especially since there have been so many developments within the City.

The Sustainability Officer gave an update about the City's Residential Landscape Beautification Program and stated there were 53 residents who had applied for the program. Per the vendor agreement, they will be planting trees in groups of tens on the residents' properties. The first 9 residents have already had trees on their properties. The vendor was currently marking the property of the next 10 residents in preparation for the planting of the trees. There was a listing of specific types of trees the residents had a choice to choose from which included fruit trees, and the homeowners who were approved for the program have agreed to maintain these trees.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Sunrise Submission for Compact C-CAT

The Sustainability Officer informed the Board that she would like input about the Equity Recommendations which they received as a handout during the meeting. She indicated her goal was to send them a draft of the survey at least 2 weeks prior to the Board meeting in August, so that they had an opportunity to review it and make comments for discussion at the next meeting. The finalized survey will be submitted at the end of August 2022.

- B. The Sustainability Officer reported on the presentation she gave at the City Commission on July 12, 2022, which was about the Sustainability Update and the policy recommendations for Electronic Vehicles (EV). She noted the Commissioners were very supportive of moving forward with EV initiatives, but needed additional information before making a more feasible decision for the future.

V. Old Business

A. Sunrise Tree Canopy Discussion

The Sustainability Officer gave an update to the Board that she spoke with the Community Development department, and they responded that the budget has been requested for next year to continue the Residential Landscape Beautification Program. Due to the disqualification of 5 residents, they still had openings and budget remaining, and were still taking applications for this year.

Board member, Skye McCloud, gave an update about the law for residents to have the ability to remove trees from their property with just a letter from the arborist has changed. She reported the changes came into effect on July 1, 2022, and although they updated the definition of residential, it was noted that single family homes can still remove a tree from their property as long they have a letter from the arborist. However, if there are residents who live within a HOA area were no longer able to cut the trees down with just a letter from the arborist. She added that this has already affected current and future plans at her HOA.

VI. New Adoption of NW 44<sup>th</sup> Street Adopt-A-Street Program

The Sustainability Officer reported that the previous Adopt-A-Street cleanup was cancelled because no Board member agreed to help with the cleanup. It was noted that Board member, Marcus Austin, would be taking over the NW 44<sup>th</sup> street and was going to rename it as a memorial for his family members. The Sustainability Officer added there were streets which were up for adoption, and she would be sending out an email with the listings, and needed the Board's assistance to reach out to the community about being a part of the program. In response to a question, the Sustainability Officer added the county recycled any previous signs which a group may have used in the past, and did not send it to them.

VII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – August 10, 2022

- a. Discussion about the Compact C-CAT Survey.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by N. Skye McCloud, and it was seconded by Larry Szeliga. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 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.