

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 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 – Co-Chair, Derric Tay, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call

Present: Marcus Austin, Natasha Inniss, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Brianna Concepcion (High School Student), Lawrence Szeliga, and Derric Tay. Staff: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer and Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant. Absence Excused: Ryan Goldman, and Bradette Jepsen. Absence Not Excused: Stephen Baughan.
 - B. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2022, Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting was made by Board member, N. Skye McCloud, and it was seconded by Board member, Laila Kitchen. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- II. A. Presentation – *Energy Saving Tree Program*, Kristen Bouquet, Program Manager, Arbor Day Foundation. She presented the following information to the Board:
 - a. The Arbor Day Foundation is the largest non-profit membership organization dedicated to tree planting. They have more than 1 million members, partners and supporters, and have planted more than 400 million trees internationally in over 45 countries.
 - b. In the Spring of this year the Arbor Day Foundation celebrated 50 years, as they were founded in 1972. They also celebrated 150 years of the Arbor Day Holiday which occurs annually in April.
 - c. Their vision is to help others use trees as a solution to critical issues, as trees are the solutions for many of the things happening in communities in present day.
 - d. It was noted that large trees were excellent filters for urban pollutants.
 - e. The temperature under a shady tree can be more than 20% cooler than the temperature under direct sun.
 - f. The addition and growth of the urban canopy can decrease the temperature in your city by up to 9 degrees by the planting of 1 tree.
 - g. A tree can absorb up to 150 kg of carbon dioxide per year.
 - h. Trees also provide habitat to plants and animals, and increases the urban biodiversity.
 - i. Spending time near trees improves physical and mental health by increasing energy levels, and decreasing blood pressure and stress.
 - j. One of the benefits of adding trees to a homeowner's yard was that it could increase the value of the home by 20%.
 - k. Per a study in Toronto, it was noted that planting 10 more trees within an urban block has the equivalent health benefits to increase the income of every household within that block by more than \$2,000.
 - l. Strategically planting shade trees can save a homeowner approximately 20% - 30% on their energy or utility bill.

- m. Trees can help to conserve energy in two ways such as:
 - i. In the summer a tree can shade the roof by lowering the surface temperature which causes less air conditioning to cool the home.
 - ii. In the winter if the tree is planted as a windbreak it can lower the heating, the kilowatts and gas usages.
- n. When the homeowner is strategic about planting trees in the right locations on his/her property it results in more energy savings, improves the air quality, reduces storm water runoff, improves beautification of the neighborhood, reduces the urban heat island effect including heat protection, and absorbs the carbon emissions. It is important to avoid utility lines when planting these trees which makes cities cleaner, safer, sustainable, and a much nicer place to live.
- o. There are many municipalities and utility companies who are partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation to distribute yard trees for residential plantings.
- p. Community Canopy and Energy Saving Trees are two programs which were designed to streamline projects like yard trees in communities.
- q. Florida Power and Light (FPL) is a partner through the Community Canopy and Energy Saving Trees programs since 2017, and created the FPL Solar Now Program. During their partnership they have distributed over approximately 4,200 trees to their utility customers, as the programs are open to the public during the Spring season when trees are available. The FPL Solar Now Program is located at www.arborday.org/solarnow. The resident has to data enter his/her name and address in the system, after which they are placed on a waiting list.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board members after the presentation about the FPL Solar Now Program. The Sustainability Officer noted she would request a copy of the presentation, and would follow-up about the application.

III. Public Open Discussion

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

IV. New Business

- A. *Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Climate Assessment Tool (CAT) Sunrise Submission Review* – Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer. She presented the following information to the Board for discussion and rating of the different categories of the survey before it was finalized and submitted by the deadline due date of August 31, 2022:
 - 1. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Priority Action #1 (GHG Targets)
 - a) Board member, Laila Kitchen, motioned to add in the survey the date the Sustainability Action Plan was approved. The Board members agreed with the equity score.
 - 2. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Priority Action #2 (Building Efficiency)
 - b) Board members agreed with the equity score.
 - 3. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Priority Action #3 (Solar Energy)
 - c) Board members agreed with the equity score.
 - 4. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Priority Action #4 (Electric Vehicle)
 - d) Board members agreed with the equity score.
 - 5. Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Priority Action #5 (VMTs)

- e) Board members agreed with the equity score.
- 6. Adaptation Priority Action #1 (Internal Capacity Assessment)
 - f) Board members agreed with the equity score.
- 7. Adaptation Priority Action #2 (Vulnerability Analysis)
 - g) Board members agreed with the equity score.
- 8. Adaptation Priority Action #3 (Resilience Plan)
 - h) Board members agreed with the equity score.
- 9. Adaptation Priority Action #4 (Risk Reduction & Planning)
 - i) Board members agreed with the equity score.
- 10. Adaptation Priority Action #5 (Policy)
 - j) Board members agreed with the equity score.
- 11. Adaptation Priority Action #6 (Capital Projects)
 - k) Board members discussed the equity scores and asked the Sustainability Officer to follow-up with the Capital Projects Director to see if he would be in agreement to change the score from 3 to 4. The Sustainability Officer will follow-up with Alan Gavazzi, Capital Projects Director.

V. Old Business

- A. Member Reports: Any outreach efforts to promote Adopt-A-Street Program since the last meeting - Board member, N. Skye McCloud, noted that at the July CERT meeting there were members who may have been interested in the program. She added she would be able to bring up the matter again at the next CERT meeting later in the month of August.

The Sustainability Officer requested the Board members reach out to different groups and organization to see if they would be interested in the Adopt-A-Street program, as there were quite a few more streets which needed adopting.

B. Increasing Tree Canopy Discussion

The Board began a discussion about ways to increase the tree canopy.

VI. Updates and Announcements

- a. Board Co-Chair, Derric Tay, reported he had graduated from the Residence Leadership Academy (RLA) Cohort 4, which was held on August 9, 2022, at the City Commission Meeting. He added the RLA was very informative, and they were given an opportunity to tour the Sawgrass Water Plant, and the Public Safety Building.
- b. The Second Annual Bio-Blitz Challenge will be recognized from September 1–30, 2022, and the City's BioBlitz Bingo is a scavenger hunt which will be held on September 17, 2022, at the Oak Hammock Park. The iNaturalist application will be used to record and upload the trees, plants and animals within these parks during the month of September for the challenge. The Sustainability Officer has requested the assistance of the Board members during this event.

VII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – September 14, 2022

- a. Discussion about Increasing Tree Canopy.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Szeliga, and it was seconded by Marcus Austin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 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.