

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Location/Address: Flamingo Park – Meeting Hall (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 6:05 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call
Present: Marcus Austin, Brianna Concepcion (High School Student), Ryan Goldman, Natasha Inniss, Bradette Jepsen, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Lawrence Szeliga and Derric Tay. Staff: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer and Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant. Absence Excused: Arun Raghubir.
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion was made by Board member, Laila Kitchen, to make corrections to the February 8, 2023, minutes and add the verbiage that Alan Gavazzi stated that the City would probably research about spending the money to make the Sunset Strip Passive Park area into a green space and build sidewalks. Subsequently, a motion to approve the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes with the changes was made by Board member, N. Skye McCloud, and was seconded by Board member, Derric Tay. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with the corrections.
- C. Events and Announcements
 - a. The Chair noted that Earth Day 2023 was a great success, and many people turned out to the event.
 - b. A Tunes and Trucks event was being held on May 12, 2023, and the Sustainability Division would have a Pass-Up Plastics booth at the event.
 - c. The Annual Sunrise Gardening for Wildlife Workshop was being held on June 10, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Senior Center. There would be plant giveaways and educational resources which would be available for the participants.
 - d. The Sustainability Officer added she was partnering with Youth Environmental Alliance for the workshop, and a Sunrise Resident Representative of the Save Our Monarchs Foundation would also be in attendance.
 - e. The Sustainability Officer reported to the Board that Rose Bechard-Butman was retiring from NatureScape Broward later that month, and would be replaced by Anthony Gross who worked with the UF/IFAS Broward Extension.
 - f. The Sustainability Officer noted she has not yet received any Habitat Wildlife Certifications for this year, but was hopeful to receive some through the workshop. She was going to check with Broward County to see if they still had the waivers in place for the certifications.
 - g. The Sustainability Officer verified and confirmed the date of the BioBlitz and it was being held on September 9, 2023, at the Sawgrass Sanctuary Park from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 - h. The Sustainability Officer reported that the position for the Sustainability Intern posting was closed, and she would be doing interviews for the position the following week.

- i. The Bike and Pedestrian Board loved the Sustainability Board's bingo card game and in turn created the Sunrise Bike Bingo. The sample card was distributed to the Board during the meeting.

II. Public Open Discussion

- a. There was one person in attendance from the public at the meeting. Her name was Sandra Castesi who was a resident of the Woodstock neighborhood in Sunrise. She spoke to the Board noting that behind her home were two canals. One was a developmental canal, and behind that was the Broward County canal. She added there was a strip of land that ran between the border of the two cities which were Sunrise and Plantation.

On the Sunrise side there were trees along the canal, but along the canal on the Plantation side it was bare, and a gate blocked off access to the land. She was suggesting to the Board that maybe either bat houses, bee hives, or monarch butterflies would probably be feasible to install along this border.

The Board Chair enquired about access to that area, and Ms. Castesi responded that it was gated off next to Hiatus Road, and a pump station was in the area, as it was not accessible to the public. The Board chair responded to Ms. Castesi that the Board would discuss and consider her suggestion.

III. Board Discussion

A. Sunrise Earth Day Festival

The Sustainability Officer reviewed pictures and shared them with the Board. She reported the following:

1. 58% of the trees were given to Sunrise Residents
2. 71% of the trees were given to Sunrise Utilities customers
3. 5% of the trees were given to people outside of Broward County
4. Approximately 22 trees which remained after the event were given to the Parks Division

Board members discussed the lessons learnt, key takeaways, and different areas they could improve for future Earth Day events.

B. Paper Landscape Bags

The Sustainability Officer reported to the Board that a resident sent a request about paper landscape bags to the City Commission and that the Mayor's office requested the Board members to review. The email request was provided in the pre-meeting documents sent to the members. The Board's response was that currently the City has bulk pick-up which did not need paper bags. This was because the bulk trash picked up loose piles and everything that was out on the street for pick-up. Also, other yard waste would be placed in the trash bins which were provided by Republic Services.

The Sustainability Officer noted that she would send an email to the resident noting that the request was reviewed by the Board, and no recommendations were made as paper landscape bags were not necessary because trash bins were

provided and could be used for landscape trash. Also, based on the enquiries from the Board, the Sustainability Officer noted she would find out about the process for residents when they needed a new trash bin.

C. Pesticide article shared by Bradette

Board member, Bradette, reported that an article found in the Sun Sentinel indicated that the City of Wilton Manors and the City of Oakland Park have partnered with an organization known as Beyond Pesticides who was doing mini projects by way of separating out some land and not putting anything on it. Subsequently, these cities have compared the differences between the land sprayed with the pesticides, and the area of land which did not have any pesticides sprayed on it.

There was discussion by the Board members in reference to possibly getting a representative from the City of Wilton Manors to discuss as to what type of products they were using on the lawns within their city. Board member, Bradette, indicated she would like to see a listing of the products being used and how often they were being sprayed within the City of Sunrise. She added that this new process in Wilton Manors was started by their Garden Club, but the City of Sunrise did not have such a club.

The Sustainability Officer noted that she had a contact at the City of Wilton Manors, and would be able to contact them about the pilot program they were doing with Beyond Pesticides. Board member, Bradette, indicated that she would reach out to Beyond Pesticides, so as to receive more information from them about their products.

IV. Board Reports

- a. Board member, Marcus, reported that his group had completed an Adopt-A-Street clean up recently.
- b. The Sustainability Officer indicated that American Express had expressed an interest in adopting Hiatus Road from Oakland Park Blvd. to 44th Street. The Sunset Strip roadway segment was very long, and now has been broken into three different sections for the Adopt-A-Street program. She added that IKEA has also expressed an interest in adopting a street.
- c. Board member, Skye, reported that on 120th Avenue just north of Oakland Park Blvd. the FPL has recently removed approximately 40 shade trees along the west side of the road, and it was dramatically different due to the removal of the trees. Board member, Marcus, responded that FPL has the legal right to remove the trees which were affecting the power lines. However, he added that FPL has to replace the hedge line by replanting smaller trees. Board member, Skye, noted she would be conducting research to find out more as to why those trees were cut down and what FPL would be doing to replace them.
- d. Board member, Derric, reported that in observance of Earth Day he participated in Markham Park's Earth Day Clean Up on April 22, 2023. They gave him a

bucket, gloves, and a pick-up stick. He did not record the stats as to how much trash was picked up or how many people participated. Later that evening he went to the Earth Day Celebration at Volunteer Park in Plantation, FL. The following weekend, he participated in the City Nature Challenge which consisted of Palm Beach County, Broward County, Miami-Dade County, and Monroe County. There were about 22,000 observations in total including 108 observations in the City of Sunrise, but most were found in Markham Park, and some residential areas.

- e. Chair, Ryan, reported that over the past two months Carrie, Bradette, and himself have been on a tree equity seminar monthly meeting which was a national collaboration of different cities which included Arizona, Portland, Sunrise, and New York City. This group was established to utilize profit and non-profit organizations to bring equity to tree canopy and distribution to cities.
 - f. Board member, Bradette, spoke about her observations of the meetings, and information she received on how to test the tree canopy within the City of Sunrise.
 - g. Board member, Brianna, noted that her Sustainability Club planted pots of sunflowers for Teacher Appreciation Week. She added that her teacher attended the Earth Day Festival and received two trees.
- V. Other Items
- a. Board members discussed that it could now be a challenge to off-set the carbon foot print of Advisory Board meetings, especially since the Sustainability Advisory Board has already done so for 2023. Board member, Marcus, volunteered to research the number of boards, number of meetings, and the number of members which would be needed to input into the calculator.
 - b. The Sustainability Officer noted to the Board that there would be an update to the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board Master Plan, and the Board would be asked to give their input of the plan.
 - c. There would be a plant give away at the Cultural Festival which was scheduled for November 2023.
 - d. The Sustainability Officer reached out to the City of Delray Beach because they recently passed an Ordinance regarding buildings needing to be certified as Green Buildings. She would like to invite the Sustainability Officer to attend a Board meeting to speak with them about their Ordinance.
- VI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – June 14, 2023
- a. TBA
- VII. Adjourn
- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marcus Austin, and it was seconded by Larry Szeliga. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 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.