

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 12, 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 6:08 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call
Present: Ryan Goldman, Abdulkadir Husein (High School Student), Natasha Inniss, Bradette Jepsen, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Arun Raghubir, Lawrence Szeliga and Derric Tay. Staff: Tim Welch, Director of Utilities, Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer and Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant. Absence Excused: Marcus Austin.
 - B. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes from the June 14 , 2023, Sustainability Advisory Board meeting was made by Board member, Bradette Jepson, and it was seconded by Board member, Larry Szeliga. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
 - C. Pass Up Plastics Pledge Acknowledgements and Group Photo
 - a. The Chair acknowledged this month as “Plastic Free July”. The Sunrise Pass Up Plastics Pledge link was placed in the June Good and Green Newsletter and there was about six people from the public who signed the pledge. The Sustainability Officer encouraged those Board members who had not taken the Pass Up Plastics Pledge to do so before leaving the meeting, as they would be able to receive one of the products she brought with her to the meeting. The Sustainability Officer also requested the Board take an updated photograph after the meeting for the Pass Up Plastics Pledge, so as to replace the old one she had on the Good and Green website.

The Chair added that he reviewed the Ordinance from Broward County about polystyrene and the ban they had implemented about prohibiting plastics from being on County properties. There was additional discussion about the other Advisory Boards paying for the carbon footprints of their meetings.
 - D. Welcome New Board Member, Abdulkadir Husein
 - a. The Chair introduced the newest Board member, Abdulkadir Husein, who attended Piper High School, and was going into his senior year for the next school year. He noted that he was the President of the Environmental Club at his school, and that he planned on studying Electrical Engineering in college.
- II. Public Open Discussion
 - a. There was no one in attendance from the public.

III. Presentation

- A. *Sunrise Water, Sewer and Reuse Ordinance Updates (Chapters 15 & 16) and Water Conservation Rate Structure Implementation*, Tim Welch, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise. He presented the following information to the Board:
- a. The Sustainability Officer requested that the Board members bring their water bills to the meeting so they could get a better understanding on how to read their water bills during the presentation.
 - b. Tim began the presentation by demonstrating an actual meter and explained how their water meters worked, and how they were currently manually read by the meter readers who were contracted by an outside vendor.
 - c. Tim also explained the new billing system, and showed the Board how to read and understand their water bills.
 - d. He gave an update for Ordinances Chapters 15 and 16 which were the Utilities and Land Development codes respectively. These Ordinances had gone through two public hearings by the City Commission before they were approved. The Masterplan was updated in 2019 for Water and Wastewater, and the City was in the process of developing Reuse Water and Conservation rate structures. He added that additional rate structures were generated for customers outside of the City which included a surcharge. It was noted the City provided water to Davie, Southwest Ranches, Sunrise and Weston.
 - e. An explanation was given about the history of South Broward Utilities which was originally ran by a private utility, but was acquired by the City of Sunrise in the 1990's, and a rate structure was developed. The City was currently in the process of consolidating and acquiring the remainder of the areas of the Town of Davie which were not currently being serviced by the City of Sunrise.
 - f. The new rate structures were explained to the Board which included different levels for the residential services, general service which were the commercial accounts, multi-family services, and government services.
 - h. A sample water bill was displayed and explained to the Board, as to how the City generated charges for their water and sewer.
 - i. Discussions ensued about the City's rates in comparison to other cities within Broward County, and the City's implementation and use of Reuse Water.
 - j. A digital meter which the City was currently reviewing and processing for approval was displayed to the Board.

IV. Board Reports

- A. Board members introduced themselves to the new member giving their names and interests for being on the Board.
- B. The Chair, Ryan, reported that he studied for and has scheduled his LEED exam.
- C. Board member, Bradette, reported that she recently planted a couple of trees in the common areas of her complex.
- D. Board member, Arun, reported his next scheduled cleanup event, and noted his organization has adopted 44th Street from Pine Island to University Blvd. He would like to invite the Piper High School students to attend his Adopt-A-Street September cleanup and receive volunteer hours.

- V. Events and Announcements
 - a. The Sustainability Officer mentioned that a Good and Green booth would be stationed at the Back to School Roundup which was scheduled for August 5, 2023, at the Civic Center from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- VI. Other Discussions
 - a. There was discussion that ensued amongst the Board about pesticides and herbicides being used within the City. Board member, Bradette, volunteered to contact the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council and report her results back to the Board at the next meeting in August. Board member, Larry, volunteered to reach out to the UF/IFAS Extension Office.
- VII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – August 9, 2023
 - a. Discussion about the BioBlitz event, and it was noted that Dr. Corey Callaghan, who was a professor from UF/IFAS, would be participating in the BioBlitz event with a guided nature walk.
- VIII. Adjourn
 - a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Szeliga, and it was seconded by Derric Tay. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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.