

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 4, 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 6:03 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call

Present: Marcus Austin, Ryan Goldman, Abdulkadir Husein (High School Student), Natasha Inniss, Bradette Jepsen, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Arun Raghubir, Larry Szeliga, and Derric Tay. Staff: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer, Molly Ferch, Sustainability Intern, and Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant.
 - B. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2023, Sustainability Advisory Board meeting was made by Board member, Derric Tay, and it was seconded by Board member, Natasha Inniss. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
 - C. Events and Announcements
 - a. The Sustainability Officer noted that the Cultural Festival was scheduled for November 4, 2023, from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at City Park. The City will be distributing two fruit trees per household to Sunrise residents only, as their photo IDs will be checked prior to the distribution of the trees. She added that the Good and Green Booth will be there, and they will be having a Tree Education and crafting activities as well. Board members were encouraged to volunteer for the event.
 - b. The Broward Leaders Resilience Roundtable was scheduled for October 6, 2023, at the Long Key Nature Center.
 - c. The South Florida Regional Planning Council Annual Conference titled “Recycling Right” was scheduled for October 20, 2023, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.
- II. Public Open Discussion
 - a. There was no one in attendance from the public at the meeting.
- III. Presentation
 - A. *A Solar Residential Case Study*, Arun Raghubir, Board Member. He presented the following information to the Board:
 - a. The initial meeting was with a salesperson who provided valuable information as to reasons towards going solar, provided valuable benefits, took pictures of the home and reviewed it, and analyzed the FPL bills which determined how many panels would have been needed for the roof. Afterwards when both parties agreed with the terms of the contract an eContract was signed.
 - b. A survey of the roof was done which included a physical inspection, and an assessment as to the reception of the sun onto the roof.

- c. The installation of the solar panels was then completed, and it took about one to two months to complete, because this process included the permitting and installation.
 - d. An inspection of the roof was done after the panels were installed, and then it was inspected and approved by the City.
 - e. After one year there was a post inspection of the installation, a review of the solar panels, and the charges for the panels were checked to make sure there were no issues with them.
 - f. Arun presented a chart of this FPL bill prior to his solar installation, and his average combination of solar and FPL bills after the installation of the solar panels were completed. It was important to note that although an individual may have installed solar they still required electricity from FPL in order to support the power for the solar.
 - g. He also presented the specifications and the cost factors for the solar, the pros and cons of having solar, and the ratings of different solar companies.
 - h. Arun ended his presentation with valuable thoughts and tips that an individual should research before installing solar panels on their roof.
- Discussion ensued amongst the Board members about Arun's presentation.

IV. Presentation

- A. *Florida Solar United Neighbor's Broward Solar Co-op*, Laura Tellez, South Florida Program Associate, Solar United Neighbors. She presented the following information to the Board:
 - a. They are a vendor neutral national nonprofit organization which means they do not have any preference on equipment, but was solely there to provide education and technical assistance to those who would like to go solar.
 - b. Solar United began in 2007 in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood in Washington, DC with 50 homes. They established their co-op along with volunteers in Florida in 2016, and as of 2023 they have members in all 50 states with approximately 395 solar co-ops, and over 8,254 homes which have gone solar.
 - c. In Florida over 2,431 people have gone solar which has resulted in 330,236 metric tons of lifetime CO₂e offset.
 - d. She explained that solar photovoltaic (PV) converted solar energy to electricity.
 - e. She noted important solar terminology, the importance as to whether the roof had little or no shading, the amount of space needed to mount the panels, the age and condition of the roof, the importance of the direction of the roof, and the types of panels, racking, and inverters which they use on the roofs during installation.
 - f. It was important to note that if the power went out the grid shuts off, but possessing backup batteries would be important to keep the power on during outages.
 - g. She also explained the pricing for solar per the kW chosen, and financing options which could be either cash, grants, or loans.

- h. She discussed how the co-op worked, the solar co-op process, the benefits of the solar co-op, and how to join the co-op with neighbors by logging in at www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward/Events.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board members about the solar program.

V. Board Reports

- a. Board member, Arun reported that his non-profit organization picked up approximately 18 – 20 bags of trash on September 9th from University Blvd. to NW 44th Street. He added that the next date for his organization to pick-up trash was scheduled for October 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- b. Board member, Natasha reported that she completed a beach cleanup on September 9th with her son's school in Dania Beach.
- c. Board member, Bradette presented some items that she personally used to reduce plastics which included laundry cleaners, bamboo toilet paper, laundry strips, Blue Land hand soap pills, shampoo and conditioner bar soaps, and fabric softener balls which were made out of sheep wool.

Pass Up Plastics

- a. The Chair spoke about the Pass Up Plastics Pledge, and asked the Board to review it and bring in ideas about restaurants/corporations that they would like to contact about the pledge.
- b. The Sustainability Officer noted that the pledge would be advertised from January through April when Earth Day was scheduled to occur with different activities planned.
- c. Discussion ensued amongst the Board members, and It was mentioned that it would be better to begin the pledge with the restaurants and then expand it to the corporations.

VI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – November 15, 2023

- A. Review the Pass Up Plastics Pledge and ideas to promote it to restaurants.
- B. Discussion about the 2024 Sunrise Earth Day Festival

VII. 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 8:00 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.