

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 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 6:56 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call

Present: Marcus Austin, Ryan Goldman, Natasha Inniss, Bradette Jepsen, Laila Kitchen, N. Skye McCloud, Arun Raghubir, Larry Szeliga, and Derric Tay. Staff: Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer, and Donna Moore, Administrative Assistant.
Excused Absence: Abdulkadir Husein (High School Student)
 - B. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. A motion was made by Board member, Derric Tay, to make corrections to the November 15, 2023, minutes which was to remove the unnecessary sentence in in “Section III, letter d”, and to change the word to the correct word “Freebee” in “Section V, letter b”. Subsequently, a motion to approve the November 15, 2023, meeting minutes with the changes was made by Board member, Bradette Jepsen, and it was seconded by Board member, Larry Szeliga. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with the corrections.
 - C. Events and Announcements
 - a. The Sustainability Officer reported that all the Board members were re-appointed at the City Commission meeting held on December 12, 2023.
 - b. The Sustainability Officer noted the dates for the 2024 Sustainability Advisory Board meetings were already scheduled, and the only changes were February 21st and August 7th. She added that she would be sending out a copy of the schedule via email to all the Board members. The Board all confirmed that their current location, Flamingo Park, was the preference for their meetings.
 - c. The Sustainability Officer reported that the City has hired an Arborist.
- II. Public Open Discussion
 - a. There was no one in attendance from the public at the meeting.
- III. Presentation
 - A. *Good and Green Annual Highlights*, Carrie Kashar, Sustainability Officer, Utilities Department. The following information was presented to the Board:
 - a. The Sustainability Officer reminded the Board to bring their green folders with them to the Board meetings, as the information within those binders would be reviewed during the meetings.
 - b. There were 23 new hybrid vehicles which were purchased in 2023 for fuel efficiency. There was a new Utility building which was designed with solar, and received grant funding for additional projects.
 - c. The Sustainability Officer attended the Climate Leadership Summit which was held in November in Miami, Florida. The City submitted the Communication Climate Assessment Tool (C-CAT), as well as the City Commission re-pledged support for the Climate Pledge RCAP 3.0.

- d. In 2024, Broward County will continue the county-wide resilience study, and the City continues to participate in that as well. The City recently submitted a grant application through the Resilient Florida program to fund the Potential Vulnerability Analysis Update.

To date, the City was awarded \$18,905,000 million from the Resilient Florida program for the following projects:

- Sunset Strip Drainage Improvement - \$1.5 Million
 - Springtree Wastewater Storage & Equipment Building - \$655,000
 - Sawgrass Wastewater Treatment Plant Train A - \$16.75 Million
- e. During 2023 there was as a total of 12 events and 2 presentations for the Good and Green Engagement, and they included the monthly newsletter, and articles featured in the Horizons.
- f. The City met the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat annual recertification requirements with:
- 11 Certified habitats which were 10 homes and Fire Station #83
 - 525 native, Florida friendly plants were distributed
 - Hosted Gardening for Wildlife Workshop, Brush with Nature, and a Sustainability Senior Series
 - Maintained the City's webpages which were established during the certification stage, and the library kiosk at the Dan Pearl library
- g. Tree City Certification was maintained with:
- Annual Arbor Day ceremony and proclamation
 - 329 Fruit Trees were given away at the Cultural Festival
 - NW 94th Street beautification was completed
 - 1,415 trees were inventoried on the City's right-of-way
- h. Pass Up Plastics:
- 229 individual pledges (to date)
 - 0 business pledges
 - Installation of water bottle refill stations at various City facilities
 - The "Water Monster" was rolled out for the Sunrise Earth Day Festival, and was now being used at different City events
- i. Water Conservation:
- ConservationPays Rebates: 123 toilet rebates
 - NatureScape Irrigation Services (NIS): 11 site evaluations which saved approximately 3.1 million gallons
 - NIS Residential Irrigation Rebates: 94 applications, 12 home evaluations, 10 rebates were provided and an estimated 298,568 gallons were saved
 - Hosted the Annual Drop Savers Poster Contest, and the City of Sunrise had 4 entries which won at the State level

j. Adopt-A-Street/Keep Broward Beautiful:

- There were currently 9 groups doing clean-ups, 4 streets were originally available for adoption, but the Sustainability Officer had received 3 applications for review
- 11 clean-ups have been completed
- 96 Volunteers participated in the clean-ups
- 980 lbs. have been removed
- City was nominated by Broward County and received the Keep Florida Beautiful “Clean Community” Award

k. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE):

- 777 Applications were submitted
- \$8,658,786 in total were financed
- 336 Projects were completed: a) 51 were Energy Efficiency Projects, b) 14 were Renewable Energy Projects, and c) 394 were Hurricane Protection Projects
- 99,574 kWh were estimated energy savings
- 111 kW Solar Capacity were installed

l. 2024 Outlook:

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update
- Vulnerability Assessment Update was pending potential grant award, and if awarded, would include a Heat Vulnerability Study
- Employee Good and Green Engagement
- Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan Update
- The City Commission on December 12, 2023, approved the addition of 26 Hybrids, and 4 additional Electric Vehicles for the City fleet
- Florida Green Local Government Standard Certification process will begin
- Sustainability Officer noted there were approximately 11 Good and Green engagement events which were being planned for 2024

m. Opportunity for Outreach on Re-Certification:

- Sustainability Officer provided a listing of possible locations for recertification.

n. Broward Emerald Awards:

- The Broward Emerald Awards was now accepting applications, and the deadline was scheduled for January 5, 2024.

o. The Underwater Project:

- This project was free and open to all Broward County Public Schools, and the goal was to engage 100 students per school. The workshops were scheduled to be held between January – May 2024.
- These workshops were structured to teach the students about Florida’s vulnerability to rising seas, crated personalized

underwater elevation markers, and to become part of the conversation to address the climate crisis in the community.

- The deadline to apply for the workshop was scheduled for December 22, 2023.

IV. Board Discussion

A. SAB Priority Planning for 2024

The Board members agreed to move this discussion to the January meeting.

V. Board Reports

- a. Board member, Arun, noted that the Sunrise Police was very supportive of his organization's efforts to clean the community, they have attended at least three of their clean-up events, and have monitored the entire street while they completed the clean-up. He also added that his organization would be doing an Adopt-A-Street clean-up on NW 44th Street between Pine Island and University Blvd. which was scheduled for December 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
- b. The Sustainability Officer reported that she attended the Florida Sustainability Director's Network meeting which was held during the first week of December.

VI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – January 10, 2024

- A. Discussion about the goals and plans for 2024.

VII. 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 8:30 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.