

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PORT ORANGE
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE – CITY HALL
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
JANUARY 27, 2020 AT 5:15 P.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Macaluso at 5:15 p.m.

Present: John Macaluso
Nancy Vaughn
Kristine Cunningham
Philip Klema
Jonathan Foley
Michael Anderson

Absent: Christina Berry (unexcused)

Also Present: Margaret Tomlinson, Construction & Engineering Manager
Shelby Field, Assistant City Clerk

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Member Vaughn to nominate Member Cunningham for Chair, Seconded by member Klema. Member Cunningham accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion was made by Member Macaluso to nominate Member Foley for Vice Chairman, Seconded by Member Anderson. Member Foley accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Consideration of Minutes - December 2, 2019

Motion to approve the December 2, 2019 minutes with an amendment to mark Member Anderson as excused was made by Member Anderson and Seconded by Member Vaughn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Discussion with 7/11 Consultant

Staff was unable to coordinate with the 7/11 consultant to attend the meeting but is attempting to set something up with them for a future meeting.

4. Sunshine Law & Public Records Training by City Clerk

Robin Fenwick, City Clerk, provided information on Florida's Sunshine and public records laws and answered questions from the Board.

5. Sewer/Septic Discussion with Public Utilities

Lynn Stevens, Public Works & Utilities Director, and Steve Parnell, Public Utilities Deputy Director, provided an update on a report provided by Wade Trim, Vendor, identifying all septic tanks in the Port Orange service area and answered questions from the Board. In 2017 Wade Trim looked at things such as where the septic tanks are located, water table elevation, proximity to surface water bodies, maximum daily limits for level of nutrients, different types of sewer systems, etc. In 2017 there were 2, 242 properties within the service area with septic tanks and 733 of those were within the city limits. Ms. Stevens informed the Board that estimated costs to provide sewer to all of these properties is around 48 million dollars. She believes the gravity sewer system is the best option even though it is a little more expensive.

At the time of the report, staff examined ways they could help promote the switch from septic to sewer. The city is unable to waive impact fees, but it can waive connections fees. There was a program in 2017 that waived all connection fees for 12 months if there is already a sewer connection available. It was not a big success, with less than half of the people notified of the program participating in it. The city is working on making future lift stations more aesthetically pleasing to encourage more people to switch from septic to sewer.

Chair Cunningham asked if changing the pollution designation of the waterways in Port Orange will open the possibility of receiving grant money. Ms. Stevens does not believe so.

Member Vaughn asked about a property on Taylor road adjacent to Spruce Creek with four parcels. She would like to know why two are planned for sewer and some are possibly permitted for septic. Ms. Stevens responded she will look more into the property in question but in the past has had issues with running the pipe down a private road without an easement and it could be a similar issue.

6. Discussion on Be Floridian Now Program

Member Vaughn gave a brief summary of the program discussed at the previous meeting and volunteered to reach out to Megan Martin, Be Floridian Now Coordinator, to determine what the city could do to participate and if Ms. Martin could provide her presentation to Council. Member Foley suggested providing a recommendation from the EAB along with the presentation to Council.

7. Ideas for Spring Expo

Member Vaughn suggested inviting Be Floridian Now to the Spring Expo to provide information on proper lawn fertilization.

Member Foley provided a sample pamphlet of information they could pass out to inform the public who they are and what they can do. The Board is encouraged to send any ideas for information to include to the City Clerk's Office to compile and bring back to the next meeting.

Member Vaughn suggested providing a type of call to action on the pamphlet with ideas about what citizens can do for the environment. The Board requested to continue this agenda item to the next meeting.

8. 2020 Proposed Meetings Dates

The Board agreed to keep the quarterly schedule as is and discussed the 2 additional meetings requested in the April 22, 2019 meeting.

Motion to add 2 additional meetings at 4:00pm to accommodate staff with the first meeting being February 24, 2020 and the second meeting being August 24, 2020 made by Member Macaluso and Seconded by Member Vaughn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Reinhagen, citizen, discussed the quarterly newsletter the city puts out and would like to see it mailed out again.

Peter Sigmund, citizen, is surprised about how a failing septic system is determined with the high water table here in Florida.

E. BOARD COMMENTS

Member Vaughn and Member Foley enjoyed Ms. Stevens presentation and believe they can always learn more from having her at the meetings.

Member Macaluso thanked the Board for all the help they provided him as chairman over the past 2 years.

Member Anderson informed the Board about a possible feasibility study being done for Spruce Creek river trestle to determine how to clean it up and open a navigable waterway (FECR)

Chair Cunningham thanked the Board for the nomination and would like to discuss member attendance at the next meeting.

F. NEXT MEETING DATE

9. Next Meeting Date: February 24, 2020

10. Items for Next Agenda
Ideas for Spring Expo

Board Member Attendance

G. ADJOURNMENT – 6:41pm


Chair Kristine Cunningham