

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PORT ORANGE
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE – CITY HALL
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
APRIL 25, 2022 AT 5:15 P.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kristine Cunningham at 5:16 p.m.

Present: Kristine Cunningham, Chair
Philip Klema
Kat Atwood
Nancy Vaughn
John Macaluso
Michael Anderson
Daniel Pompei

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

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Consideration of Minutes - February 21, 2022

Motion to approve the February 21, 2022 minutes as presented was made by Vice Chair Macaluso and Seconded by Member Atwood. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Code Options for Tree Planting for Single Family Homes

Margaret Tomlinson, Construction & Engineering Manager, provided a handout with information about the soil requirements for planting trees based on their size at maturity and answered questions from the Board.

Member Vaughn believes educational outreach to the community is important, so citizens are buying trees that are the correct size for their property.

Chair Cunningham reminded the Board about the previous conversation regarding new developments planting shade trees and making sure the builders are aware of the requirements/setbacks as well.

Steve Edgar, City Forester, offered to order *Right Tree Right Place* posters to provide to builders when they come into the City.

Member Vaughn would like native plants to be part of the discussion when educating builders.

Ms. Tomlinson informed the Board in order to change the language in the code to require native plants it would need to go before Planning Commission and City Council twice.

Chair Cunningham would like to provide educational information to HOAs to include in their newsletters regarding trees to plant.

3. Discussion on ECHO Options for City Projects

Member Vaughn discussed the funding being provided to the Down Under project. Ms. Tomlinson provided information on the plans for the project such as updated lighting, additional parking, and murals under the bridge to make the area more vibrant.

Ms. Tomlinson suggested the Board put together a demonstration project in the area for planting mangroves. The only funding allocated to the project so far is for survey work, parking optimization, and TPO project.

Chair Cunningham asked if fundraising for the project is an option. Ms. Tomlinson will look into inviting Penelope Cruz, Planning Manager, to a meeting to provide further information about possible options for the area.

4. Items for Next Agenda

Discussion on Obtaining a Watergoat Trash Barrier Deployment System
Discussion on how to Begin Railroad Trestle Dredging Project
Irrigation Funding for Trees in Parking Areas at City Center

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

C. BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Cunningham informed the Board there will be a table for the Environmental Advisory Board at the Arbor Day event at Riverwalk Friday night April 29, 2022 and there will be a tree give away of 50 trees.

Ms. Tomlinson informed the Board the giveaway consists of 3 gallon, 3-4 feet high trees and anyone interested must have proof of residency in order to qualify to receive a tree, with each address being eligible for 2 trees. Per the code amendment everyone who gets a tree needs to be educated so pamphlets will be provided as well. 10% of the tree bank funds are earmarked for tree giveaways each year.

Chair Cunningham informed the Board she met with the City Manager and staff to discuss the priorities for the Board. The City Manager assured her Council has faith in what they are doing and trusts them to continue with the direction they are headed. She has received direction to pick 1-2 projects and see them from start to finish. The Board will begin with the project to dredge the railroad trestle at Spruce Creek and look into a Watergoat trash barrier deployment device.

Member Anderson provided information on the railroad trestle at Spruce Creek including how it has gotten so bad and the steps that need to be taken to clear the area. It is no longer a navigable waterway.

Mr. Edgar requested support from the Board to bring attention to the issues with trees in the parking areas at City Center.

Member Atwood informed the Board that as she is running for City Council she may need to resign from her position on the Board in the near future.

D. ADJOURNMENT – 6:15 p.m.

5. Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2022
7. Board Report to City Council - May 17, 2022


Chair Kristine Cunningham