

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL  
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA  
APRIL 22, 2024

THE REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING of the City of Port Orange was called to order by Chair Kristine Cunningham at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call	Present:	John Macaluso, Vice Chair Kristine Cunningham, Chair Glenn Smith Philip Klema
	Absent:	Mark Heldreth (unexcused), Angelina Rossi (unexcused) Eric Gregory (unexcused)
	Also Present:	Steve Edgar, City Forester Margaret Tomlinson, Construction and Engineering Manager Tim Burman, Community Development Director Tracee Cody, Deputy City Clerk

DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Consideration of Minutes - January 22, 2024

*Motion to approve the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes as presented was made by Vice Chair John Macaluso and seconded by Member Glenn Smith. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

3. Debriefing on the Plant Giveaway

Chair Kristine Cunningham said recipients were very appreciative of the tree giveaway. The board might consider fruit bushes, rather than trees, next year. Interested recipients can give the board members their email address and phone number in the fall for the spring giveaway. Margaret Tomlinson, Construction and Engineering Manager, asked if the board would like to have extra plants on hand for anybody that might want one that didn't originally sign up. The board members agreed and liked the idea.

4. Update on Tree City Signs

Steve Edgar, City Forester, unfortunately hasn't had much progress. Tim Burman, Community Development Director, told Mr. Edgar to give him the dimensions of the

signs and Mr. Burman will get with the Public Works Department to get them installed. Mr. Burman explained the signs will only be on City right of ways for now, usually by the welcome signs, so that approval isn't needed from the State or County on their roadways. Mr. Edgar said a lot of data and criteria have to be met to become a Tree City. He and the board members want to display the signs proudly.

5. Mitigation for Historic Tree Removal without a permit - 5005 S Ridgewood Avenue

Mr. Burman provided details of the item and requirements according to the Land Development Code. He explained the board needed to recommend a mitigation plan and their options which would then go before Council for approval or denial in May. Andy Clark, representative for the property owner of 5005 Ridgewood LLC (Port Orange Flea Market) asked for a combination of payment and mitigation/planting. He explained his manager was concerned they were going to fall and hurt a customer and meant no ill will. He further explained that he used a tree company that he thought would follow any necessary rules and regulations to remove the trees but they didn't. He would like to build something nicer on the property and have plants around the future building area. The board discussed possible recommendations.

Robert Reinhagen, resident, asked if the tree company could get penalized by the City; however, it was rebutted that it was the property owner's responsibility.

*Motion to recommend that the total dollar value be paid unless the applicant is able to work out an agreement with City staff to replant trees on site, which would then be subtracted from the total dollar value was made by Vice Chair John Macaluso and seconded by Member Glenn Smith. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

STAFF COMMENTS

This was majority Board Comments:

Member Philip Klema commented about large branches and debris not being maintained in certain areas and was curious about who was responsible for it. Mrs. Tomlinson will contact the Public Works Department and the Parks & Rec Department so the correct crew can rectify the situation. She mentioned it might be a contractor as well but will look into it. One area mentioned was Home Depot and she clarified that would be the responsibility of the business.

Vice Chair Macaluso spoke about the Watergoat installation. He also brought up concerns about members not being in attendance at the meetings.

Mrs. Tomlinson spoke on the Memorial bench program. She has coordinated with Parks & Rec. to possibly meet on the weekend of May 4 or May 11. She explained the program will need volunteers and Parks will dig the bedline but there will be roughly 45

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plants for the board and volunteers to dig holes for and plant. The board decided on Saturday, May 11 around 8am. The members will assist with planting and mulch will be provided by the City's funds (the tree bank).

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Tree sign update  
Garden update  
Watergoat update

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jackie and Brandon, concerned residents, inquired about multiple issues including damaged trees, flooding, rezoning, and overdevelopment. Mr. Burman and board member suggested some other public meetings they should attend and voice their concerns.

Mr. Reinhagen asked what would have happened if the tree contractor didn't register and get the after-the-fact permit. Mr. Burman explained it would be considered a Code Enforcement issue rather than the course it's taking now.

BOARD COMMENTS

This section was included in Staff Comments.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:39 p.m.

6. Next Meeting Date: July 22, 2024 @ 5:15 p.m.

7. Board Report to City Council : May 7, 2024

  
Chair Kristine Cunningham

