

# **CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**

## **SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**

### **REGULAR MEETING 2019-06**

Held on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Palm Bay, Florida. The minutes are not a verbatim transcript but a brief summary of the discussions and actions taken at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at the hour of 7:30 P.M.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Lesley Byrd Present

**VICE CHAIRPERSON:** Rebecca Ziegler Present

**MEMBER:** Janice Crisp Present

**MEMBER:** Donielle Rouse Present

**MEMBER:** Vacant

**MEMBER:** Shaun McFadden Present

**MEMBER:** Amy Ford Present

**CITY STAFF:** Present was Suzanne Sherman, Deputy City Manager; Terese Jones, City Clerk.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

##### **1. David “Monty” Montgomery – Unique Aspects of Palm Bay.**

Mr. Montgomery provided background on the City’s Sustainability Plan from 2010; ancient history of Brevard County; Palm Bay historic locations; and future developments within the City.

##### **2. Sherri Shields – Florida Solar Energy Center.**

Ms. Shields explained the mission of Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC); program areas; goals for a building (energy efficiency, comfort, health and safety); energy audits and solar feasibility; return on investment measures; and how to determine if a building was right for solar.

She advised that should the Board contemplate solar energy, the following should be considered: assessment of buildings for energy efficiency upgrades; multiple photovoltaic (pv) system installations instead of one big one; measurement of building load data and pv output on one-minute intervals after pv installation; and display all energy information in real-time for the public. Ms. Shields answered questions posed by board members.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

#### **1. Regular Meeting 2019-04; November 20, 2019.**

Motion by Ms. Ford, seconded by Ms. Crisp, to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

David “Monty” Montgomery asked general questions regarding Item 2, under Presentations. Ms. Shields responded to same.

### **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Discussion of Core Element, Objectives and Action Items: Natural Environment/ Land and Water.**

Ms. Sherman provided organized objectives from the Board’s last meeting held on November 20<sup>th</sup>:

- Natural resource protection
  - Reclaimed water in the city and residential
  - Eco tourism
  - Wildlife corridors
  - Lower water consumption
- Expand, project, restore publicly owned natural lands
  - Move to native plants in city facilities, lead by example
  - City composting programs
  - HOA specific plants or tree place

- Restricting invasive species of plants
- Incentivize the protection of natural areas on private lands
  - Tree planting (encouraging planting of trees)
  - Hydration stations – encourage reusable water bottles
  - Rain barrel workshops/leak detection and repair classes
- Manage and protect ground water and surface water bodies
  - Reduce fertilizer use/restrict biosolids
  - Flooding and stormwater management
  - Reducing/restricting toxic chemicals
  - Rain gardens
  - State regulations on septic tanks
  - Reduction of septic tanks and expand on services for sewer towards businesses
- Plan for adaptation to sea level rise and dynamic climate conditions
  - Low flow automated sinks and toilets, showerhead exchange

The Board concurred with the following changes: place “low flow automated sinks and toilets under “Natural resource protection”; place “flooding and stormwater management” under “Plan for adaptation to sea level rise and dynamic climate conditions”; and “Incentivize the protection of natural areas on private lands” would include public lands.

Ms. Rouse suggested a community event for families to plant a tree.

Ms. Crisp asked that community gardens be included under “Incentivize the protection of natural areas on private lands”.

Ms. Byrd said that for the tree planting, a tree canopy and urban forest analysis should serve as a baseline. Ms. Ford would provide the Board with an analysis that was performed in 2016.

Ms. Ford wanted to address landscaping within subdivisions/homeowner's associations (HOA). She would like to incorporate native plants, water filtering, etc. in the new developments occurring in Palm Bay.

Ms. Crisp wanted to include wetland management and protection for new builds under "Plan for adaptation to sea level rise and dynamic climate conditions".

Ms. Sherman asked for clarification as to how the Board wished to proceed with the private versus public aspects. Ms. Byrd felt that all categories would include private and public, but the City could lead by example in the public facilities and then address the private pieces through the Palm Bay Code of Ordinances.

Ms. Ziegler suggested placing the HOA item under "Incentivize the protection of natural areas on private lands". She also wanted to add biodiversity wildlife corridors under "Natural resource protection".

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Discussion of Core Element, Objectives and Action Items: Energy and Building/Built Environment.**

#### **Energy and Building:**

Ms. Byrd asked how much work had been done to reduce energy through the Honeywell project. Ms. Sherman answered that a lot of replacements had been performed through lighting; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); and water fixtures. She said that Honeywell would be providing a presentation to City Council early next year and invited the Board to attend or listen to the archived meeting.

Ms. Ford asked if there had been any benchmarking for the buildings (utilities, water, waste, energy, etc.) and what program was used for same. Ms. Sherman said there was still a long way to go, but a starting point could be to review the utility bills and set goals for water usage and electricity, but there was no specific system in place.

Ms. Crisp said there should be a cohesive plan for zoning, and it should include requirements for new developments to have a certain percentage of the project be energy efficient. For existing commercial developments, she suggested that there be an ordinance requirement to make the buildings energy efficient within a certain timeframe.

She wanted some type of education program to assist residents in making their homes more energy efficient within their budgets. Ms. Sherman advised that creating ordinances to require new developments to be energy efficient was doable, but the City could not force existing commercial buildings to do so.

### **Built Environment:**

Ms. Ford felt the definition of “Built Environment” encompassed not only buildings, but sidewalks as well. Ms. Ziegler said roads and canals should be added. Ms. Ford asked to include streetlights and keeping the skies dark (downward facing lighting), public transit, benchmarking and transparency, net zero codes, and city building retrofits.

She encouraged the Board to look at the City of Orlando with regard to benchmarking and transparency as they had been very progressive and created a program known as the Building Energy and Water Efficiency Strategy (BEWES). She provided details on the BEWES program.

Ms. Ziegler said a city had a program related to leveraging buying power by having a community-based program for energy efficient systems and renewable energy sources, such as solar or upgrades to private homes. Ms. Shields said that Brevard County had a couple of solar co-ops. They would have local meetings with residents and decide what they wanted as far as systems and place it out for bid. As a large group, the residents had buying power and were able to keep the costs down. She believed it was called Solar United Neighbors.

Board members added the following items under Built Environment: water/wastewater treatment plant; updating traffic lights to LED; Green Building Standards for City, commercial and private properties; utilizing wastes for clean energy (solid waste, biogas, wastewater sludge, etc.); obtaining Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification; metrics which would contain a baseline, target and goal – renewable energy, energy use and greenhouse gas; reduction of septic tanks/expansion of service for sewer; and City sponsored net zero communities.

Ms. Ford said that since the Sustainability Plan in 2010, a Greenhouse Gas Report had been provided every two (2) years and was past due.

Ms. Sherman explained an agenda item for mandatory hook-up to water/sewer services would be discussed by City Council at their next meeting. She added that staff was drafting an ordinance regarding tiny homes to be considered by Council in the near future.

The Board concurred to continue discussion Built Environment at the next meeting and to schedule Transportation/Mobility for the next agenda.

## **2. Upcoming meetings/events of interest.**

Ms. Sherman advised of the following upcoming events:

- City Council Meeting – Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. – discussion of mandatory hook-up for water/sewer services.
- Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference – Saturday, January 25, 2020, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach.
- Brevard Sustainability Working Group – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at noon, located at the University of Florida Extension Office in Cocoa;

Motion by Mr. McFadden, seconded by Ms. Ford, to schedule the next meetings for Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Ms. Rouse provided sustainability related literature for board members to review at their leisure.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:30 P.M.

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Lesley Byrd, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Terese M. Jones, City Clerk