

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING 2023-05

Held on Wednesday, the 24th day of May 2023 at 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 approximately 6:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRPERSON:	Phillip Snyder	Absent
VICE CHAIRPERSON:	Logan Luse	Present
MEMBER:	Kevin Smith	Absent
MEMBER:	Susan B. Connolly	Present
MEMBER:	Jane Higgins	Present
MEMBER:	Rebecca Ziegler	Present
MEMBER:	Vacant	---

CITY STAFF:

Suzanne Sherman, City Manager; Kristin Suros, Secretary

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting 2023-04; April 26, 2023

Motion by Ms. Higgins, seconded by Ms. Ziegler, to amend the minutes by including discussion regarding the date change for the Sustainability Fair in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Ziegler, seconded by Ms. Connolly, to adopt the minutes as presented with the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION:

1. Beemats LLC – Steve Beeman, President

Mr. Beeman provided an overview of his business. It created a variety of floating wetlands (mats) for implementation into stormwater and retention ponds. These mats provided aquatic nutrient removal from periodic harvesting of the mature plants that were planted on them. This removal prevented the stored nitrogen and phosphorous in the plants from entering the water when the plants decomposed. Mr. Beeman displayed a variety of his completed work for the Board. He responded to questions posed by board members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Native Plant demo garden update

Ms. Sherman advised that a location for the garden had been selected. There was water access and reassurance that any future construction on site would not interfere with the garden's location. Ms. Sherman requested a meeting with Ms. Higgins and other support partners once more information was made available. Expectations for the garden, such as obtaining signage and volunteers for maintenance, were also considered.

2. Composting

Ms. Sherman mentioned there was no current update available. She requested city staff to reach out to Keep Brevard Beautiful and the City of West Melbourne as they had composting programs in place.

3. City sustainable efforts update

Ms. Sherman provided a list of updates for the board. The electric vehicle (EV) charging station had been installed in front of Council Chambers; fleet vehicles were being replaced and a total of seventeen (17) Maverick hybrids would soon be utilized for the Building Department; and a stormwater retrofit project was underway with an active contract for the redesign of the Public Works building, which would include a truck wash area that would have water recycling capabilities. A ribbon cutting for the new Baffle Boxes would be scheduled in the future. Ms. Sherman encouraged board members to attend. Another stormwater project was currently underway in Driskell Heights which would include the installation of a new rain garden. Lastly, a new QR code had been created that would link directly to the Low Impact Development (LID) Manual.

The 2024 Sustainability Fair would be a standing agenda item. It was noted that the date change for the fair would be scheduled for March 30, 2024. Staff would work on receiving confirmation for the location of the fair and find details about participating in Turkey Creek Day which was held on April 15th.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Upcoming meetings/events of interest (INFORMATIONAL)

Ms. Connolly advised board members of the “Florida Prosperity and Economic Opportunity Solution Summit” hosted by the Florida Chamber Foundation. It would be held on May 25, 2023, in Jacksonville, Florida. The summit was also available via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 P.M.

Phillip Snyder, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Kristin Suros, Secretary