

**CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING 2024-12**

Held on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024, in 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 Public Works Department located at 1050 Malabar Road, SW, Palm Bay, Florida. The minutes are not a verbatim transcript, but a summary of the discussions and actions taken at the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Logan Luse at 6:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	Logan Luse	Present
<b>VICE CHAIRPERSON:</b>	Rebecca Ziegler	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Jane Higgins	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Susan B. Connolly	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Jessica Lovell	Present
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Vacant	
<b>MEMBER:</b>	Vacant	

**CITY STAFF:**

Nadeca McLaughlin-Gonzalez, Assistant Public Works Director; Derek Bunt, NPDES Stormwater Outreach Coordinator; Jesinie Fieffe, Administrative Assistant; Jose Sanabria, Operations Division Manager; Dennis Bunt, Public Works Customer Service Manager; Eric Blount, Operations Superintendent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)**

There were no Public Comments.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Sustainability Action Plan**

Mr. Luse commented on the Sustainability Action Plan, focusing on the natural environment and water systems. Ms. Lovell proposed reviewing relevant ordinances and policies, and Ms. Connolly stressed the need to integrate sustainability criteria into city plans.

The Board highlighted the importance of a clear timeline and prioritized goals. Ms. Connolly suggested incorporating reclaimed water usage and collaborating with intergovernmental agencies. Educational signage and public service announcements to promote sustainable practices were also discussed.

Ms. Higgins reinforced the need for timeline clarity and goal prioritization, highlighting native plants and stormwater management. Ms. Ziegler emphasized educational outreach for homeowners and condominium associations. Mr. Bunt reiterated the importance of establishing clear timelines for effective plan implementations.

#### ***Ecotourism and Community Objectives Discussion***

The Board discussed the importance of integrating pesticides into educational initiatives and noted that some floodplain management policies already covered this, including stormwater credits for detention systems. Ms. Connolly suggested emphasizing current ecotourism sites and proposed replacing "explore" with "expand" or "enhance" concerning ecotourism efforts. Mr. Luse spoke about community goals, including promoting friendly landscaping among homeowners and improving stormwater capture. He and Ms. Lovell recommended removing the awards program to better focus on city initiatives for friendly landscaping.

#### ***Stormwater Management***

Ms. Lovell and Mr. Luse spoke about public outreach and stormwater management, focusing on rain gardens and native plants. Mr. Luse proposed incentivizing stormwater capture and the creation of native plant rain gardens through local nonprofits. The Board also discussed the importance of eliminating the use of fertilizers on public lands and promoting organic alternatives.

#### ***Septic to Sewer Conversion and Public Education***

Mr. Luse and Ms. Connolly discussed the mandatory conversion from septic to sewer systems and the need for public education. Ms. Ziegler shared an anecdote about the misconceptions on septic tanks and their impact on pollution. Mr. Luse suggested setting

new standards for construction development to manage water on-site using planned wetlands and marshes. Ms. Connolly and Ms. Lovell discussed the importance of public outreach and tracking stormwater management.

### ***Fertilizers, Herbicides, and Pesticides Education***

Ms. Connolly and Ms. Ziegler discussed the harmful impacts of herbicides and pesticides on the environment and the need for education. Mr. Luse suggested educating both citizens and landscape companies about the harmful impacts of herbicides and pesticides. Ms. Ziegler emphasized the need for educational policies around native plants and the environmental benefits of reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Ms. Connolly and Mr. Luse discussed the importance of continuing educational practices on fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

## **2. Low Impact Development (LID) Manual**

Kim Taylor provided an overview of green infrastructure and its benefits. She discussed the need for water supply infrastructure and the challenges of high-intensity storm events and explained the differences between traditional stormwater management systems and green infrastructure. Examples of green infrastructure projects included tree boxes, pervious sidewalks, and rain gardens.

Commented [TJ1]: Is she with an organization?

## **3. Floodplain Management Code and Ordinances**

Ms. Taylor from the Growth Management Department discussed the environmental and economic benefits of green infrastructure. She emphasized the importance of native vegetation, the role of green infrastructure in reducing non-point pollution, and the principles of low impact developments (LID) and best management practices. Ms. Taylor provided information on the challenges of retrofitting existing sites with green infrastructure. Ms. Connolly suggested creating educational materials and public service announcements to promote green infrastructure. Ms. Higgins and Ms. Taylor discussed the importance of educational signage and public awareness campaigns.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **1. Upcoming Meetings/Events of Interest (INFORMATIONAL).**

Mr. Luse and Ms. Lovell discussed the need to prepare for the upcoming budget review in January. They emphasized the importance of having a budget approved for the

Sustainability Fair. Mr. Luse suggested postponing the Built Environment Action Plan item until the Board's meeting in February 2025.

Mr. Bunt provided information on dates for the Fair and availability at Fred Poppe Regional Park.

Motioned by Mr. Luse, seconded by Ms. Lovell, to schedule the Sustainability Fair for May 3, 2025. Motion carried unanimously. Throughout the discussions, there was a strong focus on having a clear budget and vendor list.

Ms. Connolly encouraged community outreach for board applications and Mr. Bunt suggested addressing Board appointments during public comments at City Council meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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Logan Luse, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Jesinie Fieffe, Recorder