

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING 2024-04

Held on Wednesday, the 23rd day of April 2025, 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:

CHAIRPERSON:	Logan Luse	Present
VICE CHAIRPERSON:	Rebecca Ziegler	Present
MEMBER:	Jane Higgins	Present
MEMBER:	Susan B. Connolly	Present
MEMBER:	Jessica Lovell	Absent
MEMBER:	Vacant	
MEMBER:	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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sustainability Action Plan Review – Build

There was discussion regarding the review of the Sustainability Action Plan. Ms. Conolly conveyed the Board's directive to reassess and update the plan, specifically addressing

potential overlaps and considering new recommendations. The Board analyzed specific sections of the plan, particularly those pertaining to energy efficiency practices and partnerships. The Board reached a consensus to remove certain sections while retaining others, accompanied by specific recommendations for modifications.

The Board also deliberated on the feasibility of various recommendations, including benchmarking and the compilation of annual reports. Ms. Higgins and Ms. Conolly expressed concerns regarding the practicality of certain goals, which resulted in the decision to eliminate specific sections. The Board agreed to maintain particular objectives, such as collaboration with state and regional partners, while reallocating others to different goals.

The Board discussed the significance of low-impact development and solar energy as integral components of the Sustainability Action Plan. Ms. Conolly articulated the necessity of incorporating low-impact development practices, particularly within the water management section. Additionally, Ms. Higgins and Ms. Conolly evaluated the potential for the city to collaborate with nonprofit organizations, specifically Solar Smart, to further enhance these initiatives. The Board agreed to review local zoning codes to facilitate solar access and to consider potential partnerships with Solar Smart.

The Board examined objectives related to community education and engagement initiatives. Ms. Conolly and Ms. Higgins emphasized the importance of educational programs and fostering community involvement. Consequently, the Board resolved to eliminate certain objectives that were primarily community-focused, retaining those that aligned with the city's strategic goals. Furthermore, the Board agreed to advocate for the utilization of public spaces and to promote sustainable practices within new development projects.

Mr. Luse and Ms. Conolly provided a summary of the Board's decisions and recommendations regarding the Sustainability Action Plan. The Board concurred to forward the revised plan to city staff for their review and incorporation of the suggested changes. Ms. Higgins and Ms. Conolly reiterated the importance of integrating low-impact development practices throughout the entire plan. The Board also scheduled a subsequent meeting to review the final version of the plan and to implement any necessary amendments before official submission.

Mr. Luse emphasized the necessity of revising the packet and proposed utilizing Ms. Conolly's list as a means to enhance efficiency in the process. He underscored the

importance of establishing achievable goals to facilitate realistic implementation. Furthermore, Ms. Ziegler addressed the development of public spaces and stressed the critical nature of risk management for the city.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

Ms. Higgins announced an upcoming meeting on May 12th, in which Lisa Frazier, Growth Management Director, would provide a presentation on light-emitting diode (LED) technology. This session aimed to inform the public about the advantages of using LEDs. Ms. Connolly encouraged attendance for networking with potential volunteers for city initiatives. The Board emphasized the significance of community involvement and explored opportunities for tabling at local events. Ms. Higgins and Ms. Connolly addressed the distribution of educational materials concerning low-impact development.

Mr. Derek Bunt informed attendees about the postponement of the Biochar presentation to June 2025, while Mr. Luse proposed rescheduling it to August 2025. Mr. Bunt agreed to communicate this change to the Biochar team and would provide updates in future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Logan Luse, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jesinie Fieffe, Recorder