

**CITY OF PENSACOLA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Thursday, March 5, 2020 ~ 2:00 p.m.
Vince Whibbs, Sr. Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Quorum
2. Oath of Office—City Clerk
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes—February 6, 2020
4. Board Member Comments/Updates:
5. Old Business:
 - a) Referral from City Council—Amendment to the Code of the City of Pensacola - Land Development Code, Section 12-6 Tree/Landscape Regulations
 - b) Referral from City Council—Examine Chemicals Used on Athletic Fields and Parks in the City of Pensacola
6. New Business
 - a) Referral from City Council—Review of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force's Recommendations with a view to the Governor's Environmental Budget Initiatives
7. Reports and Announcements
8. Public Comments—Open Forum
9. Adjourn

ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE PENSACOLA CITY COUNCIL MAY BE PRESENT.

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**CITY OF PENSACOLA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 6, 2020 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Bob Bennett, Vice Chair, Kyle Kopytchak, Michael Lynch, Calvin Avant, Katie Fox

Members Absent: Dr. Gloria Horning, Blase Butts

1. Call to Order/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—January 2, 2020
Motion made by Vice Chair Bennett to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Avant and was unanimously carried.
3. Board Member Comments/Updates: There were no comments or updates from Board members.
4. Old Business:
 - a) Referral from City Council—Amendment to the Code of the City of Pensacola - Land Development Code, Section 12-6 Tree/Landscape Regulations

Chair Richards asked if Board members had any comments on information he distributed from the University of Florida on planting and establishing trees.

City Council Member Hill indicated that she has been getting a lot of responses about the need to have the permit posted before trees are taken down. There have been several instances where people called thinking people were illegally taking down trees without a permit and wondered if that was part of the proposal the Environmental Advisory Board was reviewing.

Chair Richards indicated that it was included in the Tree Ordinance. The Environmental Advisory Board has been trying to focus on the particular section that approves the request of neighborhood associations and garden clubs for money from the tree trust fund for the planting of trees. The way it was referred to the Board, the Board can look at the entire document.

Council Member Hill stated she would appreciate any support from the Board with regard to posting the permits on the property prior to taking trees down, especially a heritage tree.

Chair Richards indicated that it would be the responsibility of the Building Inspector and/or Code Enforcement officials to insure the permit is posted on site.

Council Member Hill thought the posting should be similar to what is done with a demolition permit; that it be on a post, with a certain size sign, with the date, and a number, so that if anyone had questions, they would know who to contact.

Christian Wagley indicated that the City's code requires the builder or developer to post a sign that indicates tree removal permit applied for. There is nothing in there that requires posting, like a building permit. That might be something to add in the proposed tree ordinance. With the state preemption law that was passed last year, there are things that cities can and cannot do.

Chair Richards again reiterated his opinion that the best practices from the University of Florida on how to properly install trees for the best rate of survival be included in the packet for the neighborhoods and also a short list of tree species recommended for approval.

He also stated that he has not received any feedback from Council Members or neighborhood coordinator Lawrence Powell on how they are going to spend the \$10,000 allocated from the tree fund to each Council Member.

City Council Member Hill reported that she's been contacted about placing trees in the proposed dog park on Jefferson Street. There may be some spot replacement where trees have been taken down. She's also going to look at replacing some trees on "A" Street and mentioned she's received several other requests. She has not put in her requests.

There was further discussion on what type of information to include and how the information would be disseminated to the neighborhood groups, whether a single guideline sheet, the actual University of Florida packet, or links to various sites that organizations could update with current best practices.

b) Referral from City Council—Examine Chemicals Used on Athletic Fields and Parks in the City of Pensacola

Member Fox stated that she reviewed the draft IPM plan provided by the Parks and Recreation Director. She provided comments, recommendations and additional text to the document and gave it back to the Parks and Recreation Director. They are working on finalizing the document. She is happy with the progress that was made. One of the comments she added dealt with the issue of spray times of applications. The document does a good job in outlining the first defense which is the most natural defense. Then there is a check list to go through before you get to the application of heavy chemicals, pesticides, herbicides or whatever it will be. The Board could request to review the final document or final draft before it is implemented.

Chair Richards thought it would be a good idea to have the Board review, since the issue was brought up by a Board member. The Board could review the document at the next meeting. It is basically an internal document that the Mayor could approve administratively.

5. New Business

a) Discussion—Establishment of Environmental Advisory Board Priorities

Chair Richards open discussion on the establishment of priorities. He mentioned his priorities are solar and conversion of carbon base to hydrogen fuel. Member Bennett mentioned that there would be a new Environmental Board next month and they should set the priorities.

Member Avant suggested that when Board members see something that needs to be addressed that they put on the agenda for discussion.

Member Lynch also expressed interests in stormwater/watershed issues and would like to see the Pensacola/Perdido Bay Estuary Program included. The interim director would like to see the EAB involved in the process and he would like to see the Board involved.

Member Fox asked if there was a way to incorporate and follow-up on pending motions that the EAB has made.

Chair Richards stated that he tries to contact staff to attend the EAB meetings and give the Board an update on the recommendations that have been made. He knows that the staff is doing stuff, however he's not received the okay to release the information.

6. Reports and Announcements

Chair Richards reported that Science Hour would be February 20th at the Downtown library, from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. The topic is vibrio and other water-born diseases.

Member Avant shared his poster, information and research presented at the National Institute of Environmental Science conference in Durham, N.C. regarding the landfills in Wedgewood/Rolling Hills community. There are eleven unlined landfill sites in the area. He expressed the importance of having people affected in the areas to become proactive and involved in sharing information. He has joined their neighborhood association to enable the sharing of information. He is working with a number of different colleges to compile health data on the effects of the landfills to humans as well as the watershed. They have collected 15 years worth of public records and their next step is to work on policies.

Chair Richards also announced that there was a CRA workshop on the SCAPE projects held on Monday, February 3.

Council Member Hill indicated that public comments on the project could still be made until Friday, February 7. There was a presentation made on four major projects, for approximately \$18 million. Bruce Beach project is about \$9 million, the Community Park marina, the walkability hashtag (#) project, and the northern portion of Jefferson Street streetscape, north of Garden Street. She would welcome any environmental input regarding the projects, especially dealing with invasive or endangered types of water grasses at the Bruce Beach site.

Chair Richards also announced a town hall meeting at Washington High School that the County is conducting with regard to the RESTORE project for Carpenter's Creek/Bayou Texar that will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19.

Member Lynch reported that the next technical committee meeting of the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Program would be February 27th at the Corrine Jones/Sanders Beach Community Center.

Council Member Hill also indicated that the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Program is looking for office space.

Member Bennett reported that the Governor's Blue/Green Algae task force report has been postponed until March 21st. It applies to estuaries and everything because the Governor has put in for hundreds of millions of dollars focused on prevention that includes septic tanks, drainage and fertilizers, to actually try to prevent red tide.

7. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley commented and gave a brief update on each of the environmental items submitted in the Transition Team report. He appreciates that there is an administration that is open and engaged.

Slow ride will be Saturday, February 15 in North Hill. Mountain Film fest will be February 21. CivicCon presentation will be made by a certified planner/arborist on Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m. at the Rex Theatre, followed by a workshop on March 31.

Chair Richards expressed his appreciation to Member Bennett for his service on the Board. Member Bennett and Member Horning did not wish to be reappointed to the Board for another term.

8. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

City of Pensacola Environmental Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2020
Whibbs Conference Room, 1st Floor
City Hall, 222 West Main Street
2 P.M.

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME (Please Print)	Agenda Item	Telephone Number	Address
Malina Swagne ^{with} Earth Ethics		850-910-0585	5320 Willow Oak Dr. Pace, FL.
John Smyke 52010 850		808 232 4078	
Christen Wagley			
Ann Hill			

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: City Council Member Sherri Myers

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL TO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD – REVIEW OF CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITH A VIEW TO THE GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET INITIATIVES

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council refer to the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) for review and recommendation a review of the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force's recommendations with a view to the Governor's environmental budget initiatives.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

During the current Legislative Session and State budget discussions, Governor Ron DeSantis has proposed funding for Climate Change and Environmental issues.

The purpose of this referral is to task the EAB with looking at the recommendations made by Pensacola's Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force and see if there is any potential applicability with the Governor's initiatives. In essence, are there potential funding sources that the City might be able to seek in order to achieve some of the recommendations from the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force. Following review, the Environmental Advisory Board could then make recommendations to the City Council and the Mayor.

PRIOR ACTION:

November 8, 2018 – Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force delivered their Climate Action Report to the City Council

FUNDING:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive

ATTACHMENTS:

1) None

PRESENTATION: No