



City of Pensacola
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Agenda

December 3, 2020

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Hagler/Mason

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person; however, there will be limited seating capacity. Consistent with CDC guidelines, attendees will be required to sit at least 6 feet apart and to wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth

1. Call to Order/Quorum
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—September 3, 2020 and November 5, 2020
3. Board Member Comments/Updates
 - a) Stormwater Runoff and Vault Sediment Study—Blase Butts
4. Updates from Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson
5. Old Business:
 - a) Board Member Comments: IPM Plan
6. New Business
 - a) Review of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report
7. Reports and Announcements
8. Public Comments—Open Forum
9. Adjourn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE VIA LIVE STREAM AND/OR PHONE.

To watch the meeting live visit: cityofpensacola.com/428/Live-Meeting-Video.

To provide input:

- For Open Forum, for items not on the agenda: citizens may submit an online form here:

www.cityofpensacola.com/EABInput **beginning at 11:30 A.M. until 2 P.M.** only on the day of the meeting to indicate they wish to speak during Open Forum **and include a phone number. Staff will call the person** at the appropriate time so the citizen can directly address the Environmental Advisory Board using a telephone held up to a microphone.

- For agenda items: citizens may submit an online form here: www.cityofpensacola.com/EABInput **beginning at 11:30 A.M. on the day of the meeting until that agenda item has been voted upon** to indicate they wish to speak to a specific item on the agenda and **include a phone number. Staff will call the person** at the appropriate time so the citizen can directly address the Environmental Advisory Board using a telephone held up to a microphone. **Any form received after an agenda item has been voted upon will not be considered.**

The City of Pensacola adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to City services, programs and activities. Please call 435-1606 or TDD 435-1666 for further information. Requests must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the event in order to allow the City time to provide the requested services.



City of Pensacola
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

September 3, 2020

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Council Chambers

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Blase Butts, Participating remotely, Members Alex Kozmon, Michael Lynch, Katie Fox

Members Absent: Kyle Kopytchak, Calvin Avant

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher, Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

1. Call to Order/Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—August 6, 2020

Motion made by Member Butts, seconded by Member Fox to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting and was unanimously carried.

3. Board Member Comments/Updates

a) Update on Stormwater Collection and Removal—Blase Butts

Member Butts gave an update on debris that was collected at the stormwater outfall at Florida Blanca and other issues pertaining to what is caught by stormwater vaults and what goes back into the bay. He volunteered his time to review the contract and help evaluate what is removed and to find the source of where it comes from.

Mark Jackson indicated that Chris Mauldin handles the engineering aspects of stormwater while Roger Williams is in charge of maintenance. He was unsure if arrangements could be made to view what is collected by the contractors who clean out the vaults; however suggested it might be possible to have a field day to open up the vaults and review the materials collected.

4. Updates from Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

a) Carbon Baseline Report

Mark Jackson provided an update on the work he's been doing with representatives from Energy Services in developing a baseline for 2020, capturing the buildings and fleets. They are still evaluating employee commute to work.

He also reported that the staff has reviewed and made changes to the tree ordinance and the ordinance is currently being reviewed by the legal department. Hopefully, it will go to the Planning Board in October.

Member Butts relayed a plight of his neighbors that have four large trees that are near their house. They had them trimmed; however their insurance company sent a notice to them that they want the trees cut down since they overhang their house. With the City trying to increase the tree canopy, are the insurance companies now going to control the trees?

Mark Jackson indicated that the ordinance considers a heritage tree as 30" in diameter and to get a permit to have them removed, they would have to pay a mitigation fee to have them removed. The City cannot take over control of insurance companies. That would be handled through the state through consumer protection.

He also provided a brief update on the Gulf Power solar project recently approved by the City Council.

Council Executive indicated there were only two sites approved in the master lease with Gulf Power and the details would be contained in that lease. The authority to oversee the lease rests in the Mayor's Office. The City is open to other solar companies coming forward with their proposals.

5. Old Business:
a) Tree Fund Activity

Mark Jackson inquired what the process is for neighborhoods to follow to receive grants approved by the EAB from the Tree Trust Fund that is mentioned in the proposed tree ordinance. If the ordinance is approved, need to be able to tell the public how to apply for the grant.

Council Executive indicated that the EAB started discussing the process about two years ago; however, has been unable to come to an agreement on what the process would be, the dollar amount, etc.

Chair Richards stated that the thoughts were that it would mirror through the Neighborhood Challenge Grant system through the Neighborhood Department, then would loop through the Environmental Advisory Board as a recommendation and then to the City Council for approval to release those funds. Several years ago, he provided information to the Board that talked about the right trees, in the right place, the right time, the right soil. They were documents provided by IFES and were not intended to be included in the ordinance, but to be used as guidelines. As the documents are updated or changed, they would be used to give to the neighborhoods to pick their trees and know how to take care of them for survival.

Mark Jackson indicated that the ordinance does spell out what tree, how it should be maintained and irrigated. There will be a list of trees that could be planted and the list is included in the Ordinance. It would not be left up to the Board to dictate what type of tree to plant.

Chair Richards stated that he would like to see the list of trees, that he would not want to restrict them to native trees only, but certainly would not want invasive species included.

Member Kozmon suggested involving the Extension Services in the review process.

Mark Jackson stated that he has reached out to them as well as the County forester and the State forestry service in working on some of these issues as well as the urban forest inventory and tree canopy survey that will give a baseline for where we are currently and also where we are deficient in the tree canopy as well as the species and the health of the species. They are also looking at streamlining the departmental process.

Member Kozmon inquired as to whether there would be any consideration or guidelines in the grant process to support the tree canopy, or backyard habitats rather than a front yard beautification project.

Mark Jackson indicated that currently, the project would have to be on the City right of way or some type of public property. Backyards would not be qualified. You are talking about public funds and they can only be spent on public property in a way that serves the entire public.

Chair Richards asked if the Environmental Advisory Board would have an opportunity to review the proposed ordinance.

Council Executive indicated that once it is on the Planning Board agenda, the Environmental Advisory Board will be able to review and make comments to the Planning Board.

Chair Richards also reviewed the tree trust fund activity update handout. (attached)

Council Executive also updated the Board on the City Council discretionary tree trust fund disbursements. There have been seven projects approved. Also discussed whether funds not utilized would be rolled over and also if funds could be used in other districts for designated projects. It has not been determined if funds will be carried over in the new fiscal year.

b) Solar Power in the City

Chair Richards indicated he placed this on the agenda to see if there was anything the Environmental Advisory Board needed to provide staff. Perhaps they could provide public input on the design and prioritize the additional 38 sites

6. New Business

a) Green Building Ordinance

Chair Richards stated the intent of placing this on the agenda was to bring awareness and concern of the ordinance and that buildings that are built on city property or with city cooperation need to comply with this ordinance. The Mayor has the latitude to relieve the requirements of this ordinance and to put that in the record for the building permit.

Christian Wagley gave some background information on the development of the Green Building Ordinance. It's been in existence for over 8 years and has been basically ignored by the previous administration. He encouraged the Board to push forward their oversight role to encourage the Mayor and Council to consider this ordinance when building new projects.

Council Executive stated that he did forward this ordinance to the current Assistant City Administrator as well as the Public Works Director.

7. Reports and Announcements

Member Lynch reported that the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Program has interviewed two candidates for the Executive Director position and made a selection; however he doesn't know who they selected.

Member Fox did not have a further update on the Chemical/Pesticide use best practice plan. She thought it would be good if the Council Executive could request a copy and forward to the Board for their information.

Member Kozmon indicated that he has an idea to present and will work on it for the next meeting.

Member Butts expressed concern over how the City looks and especially the extremely white ramp leading up to the new bridge and did not want it to become another graffiti bridge.

Council Executive indicated that there might be something in the design to limit access to that area.

8. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley made brief comments on the concerns he expressed about the Gulf Power solar program and how they continue to put up road blocks for individuals to place solar power on their homes and businesses. In order to meet the 2040 goal of the Climate Task Force, the City needs to have the ability to place and use solar power sources on their buildings. He also suggested the Board get an update on the fertilizer ordinance recently passed by the City Council.

He announced "The State of Rooftop Solar In Florida" a webinar on Solar energy that would be held tomorrow; the Public Service Commission hearing on September 17, and the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Program selected Donald Killorn from Canada and he will be starting in January.

Chair Richards inquired about the possibility of the City re-opening to the public.

Council Executive provided an update. If the numbers indicate, there is a possibility that the City may reopen the end of September first part of October.

Chair Richards also mentioned the possibility of having a presentation from Dave Robau on the PACE program. It has been in existence for about five years; however it has not been used very frequently. The information has not gotten out to the public.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

handout 9/3/2020
EAB Meeting

TREE PLANTING TRUST FUND (Included in the General Fund)

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$495,450.87				
FUND BALANCE					
REVENUES					
TREE TRUST FUND					
INTEREST					
TOTAL REVENUES AND FUND BALANCE					
EXPENDITURES					
PERSONNEL SERVICES					
OPERATING EXPENSES					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					

At the end of the July 31st, 2020, the Unencumbered balance of the Tree Planting Trust Fund was: \$529,773.87

Fees collected through July 31, 2020 for the Tree Planting Trust Fund are \$28,500
This is comprised of the following collections:

Address	District	Amount	Purpose
1820 E. Gonzalez Street	4	\$ 3,600	Removal Without Permit Penalty
2910 N. 12th Avenue	5	\$ 19,100	New Commercial
927 E. Fisher Street	5	\$ 1,000	New Single Family Home
324 s. "N" Street	7	\$ 1,000	New Single Family Home
359 Clubbs Street	7	\$ 1,000	New Single Family Home
1289 E. Avery Street	5	\$ 1,000	Removal of Tree at Existing House
5653 Leesway Blvd.	1	\$ 1,000	Tree & Roots damaging Home
		\$ 800	
		\$ 28,500	



City of Pensacola

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

November 5, 2020

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Hagler/Mason

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Kyle Kopytchak, Katie Fox, Alex Kozmon

Members Absent: Blase Butts, Michael Lynch

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher, Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson.

Public Attendance: Christian Wagley, Victoria Odena

1. Call to Order/Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. **A quorum was not present.** Council Executive reported that Member Calvin Avant submitted his resignation from the Board, effective immediately.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—September 3, 2020

No vote taken due to lack of quorum.

3. Board Member Comments/Updates

a) Stormwater Runoff and Vault Sediment Study—Blase Butts

Member Butts was absent and will provide update at the next meeting. Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson indicated that he learned a lot from the recent field day that he and Member Butts had.

4. Updates from Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

a) Update was provided on getting an energy management software called Sustain A Base that will use software to track all of the energy consumptions within city buildings and the enterprises. This will give a baseline to understand how much green gas emissions are produced, how much energy is consumed for city buildings and fleet. Once that information is available, the City can move on to actually make reductions. It is a software package that will produce information on a yearly basis. It will be for electric, water, natural gas and fleet. Having the baseline and measuring stick helps the City know where it is. Various departments are already making changes with LED lights. The ultimate goal is to reduce emissions and hopefully reduce costs.

Member Kozmon asked with regard to changing out street lights whether any consideration was given to the Fish and Wildlife Commission's recommendations for low impact to be less disruptive to nocturnal wildlife.

Sustainability Coordinator indicated that he did not know, but would check into it.

5. Update on Tree Ordinance Rewrite

Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson indicated that the Tree Ordinance did get passed through the Planning Board and they are making some minor changes to it before it gets passed through to City Council. The Tree Ordinance that they are working on is to clarify the processes and the steps and responsibilities internally as an organization of who and what is responsible and how things should be done. It is currently divided up into multiple departments and people who administer different aspects of the ordinance. Need to get more consistency throughout the ordinance.

With regard to the tree damage done by Hurricane Sally, the City and County were able to get the state foresters to come out and assessed all of the parks and public facilities; they assessed 96 facilities and 68 miles of right of way. There are 314 miles of city right of way. Of that, they found 224 trees that will have to be removed and they marked them accordingly. All of the markings were based off of FEMA standards. Looking at late 2021 early 2022 to get the majority of those trees replanted. Not sure whether the replacement trees would come from FEMA dollars or out of the Tree Trust Fund. IFES has well documented information on wind resistant trees that they pulled from the past seven hurricanes and the on the ground surveys they did for those.

The current tree ordinance will be followed with regard to replanting, using wind resistant trees, the right tree for the soil in that park and looking at all the criteria for replanting.

Member Kopytchak asked several questions concerning the Tree Trust Fund financial statement that was presented at the September board meeting.

6. Old Business:
a) Solar Projects in the City

Chair Richards indicated he put this on the agenda to see if there were any new projects for roof top solar, new projects with Gulf Power project or anyone else. No update information provided.

6. b) Council Executive provided copies of the Integrated Pest Management Plan, and the marked up version including Member Fox's recommendations. (on file)

Member Fox provided a brief update on her involvement with this issue and wanted the Board to have an opportunity to review both documents and to be able to provide comments back to Parks and Recreation and or City Council.

7. New Business

- a) Bruce Beach Design

David Forte is the project manager for this project and he was not available for this meeting; however he provided some information to the Sustainability Coordinator to relay to the Board. The project is a three phase project. The first phase will be to install some beach terraces and building a kayak launch, doing a pedestrian bridge across "Washer Woman's Creek" and some native landscaping. Phase I is the entire eastern half of the site. Phase II will install walls, an overlook and exercise equipment, parking and a marsh trail. This is going to be the whole western side. Phase III will be the entry plaza, a learning garden and a water feature, shade structure and cultural exhibits. That would be the northern portion.

The Audubon Society will be doing a supplement to the plan, where they are talking about the native plants and trees, that is where they will be doing the planting to help migratory birds as they move through the area.

Council Executive informed the Board that there is an item coming before the City Council in November that is a Memorandum of Understanding between the City, the CRA and the Audubon Society. As a part of that MOU any plantings have to go through SCAPE and be approved by them for consistency with design. The Audubon Society wanted to push this through to take advantage of this year's planting cycle and they have a grant they need to use before it expires. This is a CRA project so the funding is coming from the CRA.

The Design completion date for phase I is in 2021. The total budget for all phases of the project is \$8.7 million.

Member Kozmon introduced an item for the Board to consider the benefits of a short or long term plan, an annual plan or a multi year plan that might lay out taking on projects that support something concrete with respect for environmental activities that may affect the City, to work on projects as a cohesive Board.

Council Executive indicated that he and Member Kozmon had a brief discussion about the idea. Instead of having meetings where the Board may hit or miss various topics it would be beneficial to have a short range initially, because there will be additional Board members appointed and it would be good to have a short range plan or goals. One of the things that was talked about before was a review and prioritization of the Climate Task Force report. Several things the Board took action on and referred to City Council for action. The report is just sitting there for review. It would be good to at least have a plan for things you want to accomplish within a time frame so that those can be measured and met. Every year the Board has to make a report to the City Council of what the Board accomplished the previous year and this would provide the Board a good mechanism to report on the accomplished goals. The previous administration did not use this board for anything. This administration is not of that mindset. The Sustainability Coordinator, Mark Jackson is here to help advise the Board. However, Mark is not a staff member to this Board. He is a member of the administrative team that is here to advise the Board. He is not a staff person for the Board. He can help get information. His job is not to go out and research stuff for the Board.

8. Reports and Announcements

Chair Richards reminded the Board of the Climate Task Force Report and asked that a copy be sent to the Board for their review to see what additional items the Board could consider for implementation recommendations.

9. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley informed the Board of an event on Zoom Monday, November 9 where several environmental groups will be getting together to talk about the results of the election and what that means for taking action on climate change. Each of the local groups will be able to share what they are doing with climate change and how to encourage others to get involved.

On Tuesday, December 8, several members of the Climate Task Force will come back together to discuss where we are and what the path forward will be. It will also be a zoom meeting. He felt like reducing emissions to get to the goal of 30% by 2030 would be a priority.

Further comments on achieving this goal and also how and when to present to City Council were made by Board Members, Christian Wagley, and Council Executive.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

November 10, 2020

Review of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan
Athletic Fields
City of Pensacola

Since this is a living document, I like that it is at least a starting point. Any new plan will take some time to settle in and become perfected. My comments are listed below, based upon my experience with IPM through Extension.

Page 1 -Detection and Monitoring

Typically, IPM (from Extension) consists of the following steps:

- Prevent problems through sound cultural practices including proper water, fertilization, and placement of plants

- Monitor the area for signs of problems

- Decide if a problem requires action – is there a level of tolerance for the imperfect?

- Intervene using a non-toxic or least toxic approach

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention

- Return to monitoring if successful or decision making if not.

The City of Pensacola plan varies slightly in that it defaults to some type of treatment or appears to do so. Having said that, treatment could also mean an intervention, such as hand picking a problem away.

Step 3 – apply preventive methods to reduce the occurrence of pest problems –

Is “preventive methods” referring to cultural practices or treatment options? If it refers to cultural practice changes, I feel that should be specifically stated.

Page 2 - Preventive Measures and Treatment

Bullet 2- Physical: Other lawn problems: “...by pruning tree branches to minimize...”

This is an IPM document but since pruning is being referenced as a cultural practice method, does it need to be specified that reference to proper pruning techniques, including cut types, appropriate time of year, and minimizing damage or opportunity for disease to set will be conducted?

Bullet 3 – Cultural: the last sentence refers to watering “...during the summer before sunrise or after sunset to reduce...” It is never recommended to water after sunset because the water that remains on the turf will increase the likelihood of fungal growth. Based upon Extension recommendations, watering should always be performed at a time when the excess water can dry from the surface of the turf to reduce the opportunity for a fungal infection to set in.

Page 3 – Preventive Measures and Treatment (con't.)

Bullet 3 – Fertilization: there is no mention of proper fertilization timing. Generally, fertilizer is recommended between April 15 and October 15, to coincide with the rise and decline in soil temperature. Soil cooler than 70F, generally before April 15 and after October 15, is unable to make nitrogen available to the plants. Hence, it is a wasted product and wasted money when applied at the wrong time. Additionally, there is no mention of any state or federal regulations around the application of chemical fertilizers, although there is a general mentioned on page 4 regarding the application of pesticide and chemicals.

Page 4 – Preventive Measures and Treatment (con't.)

Chemical > Weeds – using vinegar will burn back the leaves, but generally does not kill the plant. This may result in bare patches in which the weed will regrow, or a new weed take hold faster than the turf is able to fill in.