



City of Pensacola

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Agenda

June 3, 2021

2:00 pm

Hagler/Mason Conference Room,
2nd Floor

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person; however, there will be limited seating capacity. Consistent with CDC guidelines, attendees are encouraged to sit at least 6 feet apart and to wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth. To watch the meeting live visit: cityofpensacola.com/428/Live-Meeting-Video.

1. Call to Order/Quorum
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 - a) May 6, 2021
3. Presentation:
 - a) Update on Invasive Species Management - Rick O'Connor, Florida Sea Grant Agent
4. Review of Goals—2021
5. Update: Sustainability Coordinator
6. Board Member Comments/Updates, Reports and Announcements
 - a) Discussion Item – Watershed Garbage Collection—Member Alex Kozmon
7. Public Comments—Open Forum
8. Adjourn

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

To watch the meeting live visit: cityofpensacola.com/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 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 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

May 6, 2021

2:00 pm

Hagler/Mason Conference Room,
2nd Floor

Members Present: Kristin Bennett, Chair, Kelly Hagen, Vice Chair, Neil Richards, Blase Butts, Katie Fox, Alex Kozmon, Kyle Kopytchak, P. Jay Massey

Members Absent: Michael Lynch

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher, Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson, Michael Ziarnek, Cynthia Cannon, Assistant Planning Director, Keith Wilkins, City Administrator, Christian Wagley

1. Call to Order/Quorum

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a) April 1, 2021

Chair Bennet mentioned there was a typo. Member Kopytchak moved for the approval of the April 1, 2021 minutes, seconded by Member Fox. The motion was approved 8 – 0 with one member absent.

3. Add-on Presentation—Vulnerability Assessment

Cynthia Cannon provided an update on the vulnerability assessment they have been working on over the past year through a FDEP Resilient Coastlines Grant. She pointed out two of the recommendations made by the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force. One was to conduct a vulnerability assessment and the other was to update the Coastal Element of the Comprehensive Plan – Peril of Flood Act. This is the base line for the resiliency efforts moving forward. The assessment will include interactive maps to use as a tool. There will be future presentations on the vulnerability assessment—one on Monday, May 24th at the Council Agenda Conference and again a larger community wide virtual presentation.

Ms. Erin L. Deady, P.A. joined the meeting via teams and reviewed her project team members—Clearview Geographic/Stetson University, Lori Lehr, Inc. FEMA's Community Rating System and Jeff Needle, P.E. Climate Resiliency

Engineering and Design, Inc. (CRED) (Stormwater functionality and modeling). The scope of Pensacola's RPG is to develop a vulnerability assessment, develop Comprehensive Plan language to comply with "Peril of Flood" requirements in Section 163.3178(2)(f), F.S. (Coastal Management Element). She reviewed the tasks and work products to date that have been submitted to and accepted by DEP. She explained the resources and modeling tools they used in the mapping to determine sea level rise and tidal flooding. It will help with determining potential future conditions, project priorities, and work to mitigate future flood risks. She reviewed the gap analysis, that is divided into four major categories—Flood Understanding/Emergency Response, Build Environment, Natural Environment and Socio-Economic Data. She reviewed FEMA's Community Rating System data requirements that must project out at least to the Year 2100 and also reviewed NOAA's Sea Level Rise Projections. The assessment will include a map series that contains much of the GIS enabled data that was gathered during the collection phase. Also discussed was the tidal flooding areas—coastal shoreline flooding and street flooding by 2040. Based on the analysis, by 2040 sea level rise will cause tidal flooding to occur at 39 locations through the City based on the elevations of low-lying coastal areas. This will require shoreline protection improvements and back-flow prevention devices at up to 21 of the City's 116 stormwater pipes that discharge to tide. She reviewed the goal, objectives and policies of the proposed Peril of Flood amendments in the Coastal Management Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Board members had several questions about the data comparisons between Pensacola and Delray Beach and the use of NOAA Sea Level projections and the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on sea level rise.

Assistant City Planner stated that if there were further questions, there will be a frequently asked questions page, with those questions going through the Planning Department, so that there will be an answer in writing for everyone to see. The email address to submit questions is: planningquestions@cityofpensacola.com. Put FDEP Coastal Resiliency Program in the subject line.

Chair Bennett thanked Cynthia and Erin for their presentations and indicated that as this resiliency program moves forward, she would be interested in having further updates on the progress made to the Board.

Council Executive indicated that he had requested a copy of the presentation and once received, would send out to all the board members.

3. Goal Setting—2021

Chair Bennett opened discussion and asked if Board members or Council Executive had any thoughts on how to proceed with establishing the goals. There were 21 items submitted, with some overlapping.

Council Executive suggested that there be some consensus from the Board as a body as to what the top five priorities are and set those as the top five for the current year and as time goes, readdress them in the next year.

Member Richards stated that he thought at the last meeting, that the number one priority would be the establishment of an application form and process for community organizations to use in obtaining funds from the Tree Trust Fund. Member Butts indicated that he would look into gathering information on any existing municipal tree grant applications and processes and didn't know if he was ready to make a presentation to the Board today.

Council Executive indicated that he had received some information from Member Butts and there was some additional information that he suggested to be looked at as well. This meeting was to prioritize the goals. Sustainability Coordinator also had some thoughts about the application and process. At the next meeting, perhaps a presentation can be made. The Board may want to consider having six priorities, with the application and process being one of the six, since work is already underway on this.

Chair Bennett read over the list of submitted Goals for 2021. She indicated that several of the goals involved having someone make presentations to the Board on different topics. She has met with the Sustainability Coordinator to have some kind of educational presentations made to the board and asked how the Board felt about having them added at the beginning of the meetings.

Board discussed benefits of having these educational type presentations made so that it would provide background information for discussion and consideration by the board on the various goals, once finalized.

Also, Member Massey asked that walk-ability, ride-ability as it affects greenhouse gas emissions be added to the list of goals.

Council Executive suggested that items 2, 7, 8, and 12 be eliminated from the list as the City already has existing language in the code on some of the items;

Sustainability Coordinator is already providing updates regularly to the Board, staff does try to provide available information to the EAB for their review and comment, and the City Council did take action on the EAB's recommendation to reduce usage of Styrofoam and plastic straws, installed water refill stations in City Hall and provided reusable water bottles to City employees. There are certain limitations that the legislature has imposed on what City's can and can't regulate.

Discussion occurred on item 14 with regard to recommend a sustainability action plan. Member Kozmon indicated that it was one of his items and that based on the action the Board took at the April meeting when he presented the plan, it's been satisfied.

There was also discussion on item 18, with regard to using Tree Trust Funds for matching federal or state grants to plant trees and item 20 with regard to educating and promoting the installation of "rooftop" solar for residential and City of Pensacola. Council Executive informed the Board he was not sure if the Tree Trust Funds could be used as "matching funds" and would have to look into that. Also with regard to Item 20, he informed the Board that a City Council Member has already requested information from staff on the status of roof replacements on city buildings and if, when replaced, they could look at installing "rooftop" solar.

Christian Wagley explained what Solar United Neighbors does. They set up Co-ops where the community comes together to pool their purchasing power as individuals to get the best deal on solar. What Solar United Neighbors does as a non-profit is they bring the neighbors together, have public education sessions, get everyone signed up who wants to get solar for their rooftop and then they help them through the RFP process as technical experts. They make sure the right information goes out, help collect the bids from companies in the area who bid, and help the members of the co-op make their choice. They have no stake in the game as far as who gets selected.

Member Fox offered a recommendation on how to move forward with the process of establishing the goals. She has heard as priorities, trees, solar and sustainability. Based on the authority that the EAB has, the initiatives have to be actionable for the Board and the terminology the Board has to use is the Board can support, understand and recommend. Once the Board understands an issue, then they can take action to support or make a recommendation.

Member Richards mentioned that item 5 needs to be considered along with the solar items. The ultimate goal would be to have the charging station powered by solar canopy. That is a significant budget item.

City Administrator Keith Wilkins addressed the Board with regard to electric vehicles and charging. Two solar trees have been installed at city hall by Gulf Power, and they are completing a solar canopy at Sanders Beach Community Center. There will be recharging stations associated with it. They are going to do the same thing at City Hall and will have ten vehicle charging stations. The City does not have any electric vehicles in the fleet.

Sustainability Coordinator indicated that if there is an opportunity to add an electric vehicle and it falls within the replacement, there is nothing preventing it other than having the infrastructure like charging stations and that is something they are working on.

Member Kozmon made a suggestion that since this is something that is already being addressed by administration, that it does not need to be included as a priority.

Items 6 and 9 could be included under education/presentations. There was further discussion on item 9--dark sky lighting with Sustainability Coordinator providing information on street light replacement upgrades. He's been told they are dark sky compliant lights. Within the City, the City only owns about 1500 lights of the over 6,000 lights. The others are owned by Gulf Power or FDOT. The lights the City has put in are LED. They are an efficient bulb, it's just the coloration or the way it projects that is different.

Council Executive also indicated that the City has recently changed some of the standards and addressed neighborhood concerns with 5K lights. The lights that get put in neighborhoods are substantially different than those on major streets like 9th Avenue and Bayou Boulevard.

Chair Bennett indicated there were three outstanding items listed and that she was not sure where the Board's authority lies. She wondered how Item 17 to reduce/eliminate pollution from stormwater runoff including Escambia County watershed could be a priority item, since that issue is already being addressed in the City and County with their stormwater projects.

Member Butts indicated that he was satisfied. The city is doing everything they can, with the funds that are available.

Sustainability Coordinator stated they are doing as many projects as they can to capture stormwater or to divert it from flooding where ever they can and also treat it.

Member Richards also mentioned item 11 and item 19. They relate in some ways to stormwater and specifically to educate the public on placement of yard waste debris to help eliminate clogging stormwater drains. The goal should be long term, on-going education. One person from the EAB could go to a neighborhood association meeting to educate the neighborhoods on various environmental issues.

Sustainability Coordinator informed the Board that a recent flyer was enclosed with gas/sanitation bills on stormwater and placement of debris.

Member Fox indicated that it could be categorized as waste management or stormwater management or water quality. Another item not included on the list is the continued understanding of the IPM Plan.

Item 15 with regard to invasive plants was discussed. This could be something the Board follows up on without including it as a priority item. Member Kozmon provided a little background information on why he submitted this item. The damage that invasive plants do, he would be willing to put together some information on invasive plants and the effects on the environment in general to be able to help formulate a recommendation.

Item 16 could also be put in with trees, since it is about preserving ecology, tree canopy preservation/restoration and it may be possible to build wildlife habitation and preservation. Member Kozmon indicated it was an important issue with him, but felt it was too much for the Board to take on and would not be offended if it was removed.

Chair Bennett asked for clarification on item 3. Member Butts indicated that was one of his items with all the projects that wastewater and water treatment plants are starting to do with this. He pointed out a project that the City of Alabaster, AL is doing. It could go under sustainability.

Member Kopytchak indicated he received a text message from a citizen watching

the EAB meeting and asked that consideration be given to addressing storm-water and infrastructure. Address flooding issues downtown before more building permits are issued and impact fees.

Sustainability Coordinator suggested that the Board consider a category of Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, because a lot of the topics discussed fall under that category.

Member Hagen indicated that education should be a category to include presentations to the Board as education as well as the Board members doing public outreach to educate neighborhoods on various environmental issues.

Council Executive cautioned the Board on public outreach. The Board would have to agree to any individual member going to an individual place and they would have to agree on any information presented. Individual bias can come into play that may not be reflective of the Board's position.

Member Kozmon indicated that a presentation could be put together for review by the Board and then once approved by the board, then could be used as public education.

With reference to the IPM Plan and having an overall citywide IPM plan as it relates to the Public Works Department, the Council Executive informed the Board that the Public Works Director recently retired and David Forte has been appointed interim director.

Chair Bennett indicated that she would work with the Council Executive to re-categorize the goals and priorities and come back next month for a quick re-cap and discussion.

4. Board Member Comments/Updates, Reports and Announcements
There were no Board Member Comments
5. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley expressed his appreciation to the Board on how engaged they are. He announced an on-line event he is hosting with Chris Castro, Sustainability and Resiliency Director for the City of Orlando on Monday, from 5 – 6 p.m. He has a meeting set up in late June with a woman from the Audubon Society of Florida to do a budget session. In order to make the renewable energy goals, they are going

to be pushing hard to have money spent on some of the projects that will help meet the 30% goal. He also thanked the Board for staying focused on the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Sustainability Coordinator introduced Mike Ziarnek, Complete Streets Coordinator with the Planning Department.

Chair Bennett thanked the Michael Singer and Ryan Miller for their participation on the IPM plan during the last EAB meeting. The next meeting of the EAB will be June 3, 2021.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Board 2021 Goals

Item 15 – Invasive Plant removal at city properties

Introduction

Preservation of a local ecology is dependent upon several factors, none of which exist separate from the other. While it is important to protect and manage an urban tree canopy, it is equally important to preserve and protect local (native) flora. Native flora is in turn, vital to the preservation of local fauna. Native flora has been found to support 50% more fauna than similar non-native species.¹ Efforts to remove and properly dispose of invasive plant material is a significant step in the preservation of the local ecology.⁵

Definitions:²

- Native – a species that occurs naturally within a specified geographic area.
- Non-native – a species that does not occur naturally within a specified geographic area.
 - Invasive - A species that (a) is nonnative to a specified geographic area, (b) was introduced by humans (intentionally or unintentionally), and (c) does or can cause environmental or economic harm or harm to humans.
- Nuisance - An individual or group of species that causes management issues or property damage, presents a threat to public safety, or is an annoyance. This can apply to both native and nonnative species.

Additional Information

Extent of the invasive plant problem in Florida

- 1400 non-native plant species are present in FL⁵
- 200 (+/-) species have been identified in FL⁴
- 30% of plant species growing without cultivation in Florida are non-native⁸
- 2021 FL agencies spent \$100 million to combat invasive plant species³

Growth habit of invasive plants⁵

- Root system or plant expands rapidly producing new plants each season
- Can tolerate many soil types and weather conditions
- Efficient spreading throughout an environment
- Rapid growth rate

Damage to the local ecology

- Biodiversity destroyed – native plants eliminated⁵
- Loss of wildlife food source and shelter¹
- 1.7 million acres of natural area affected in FL
- Loss of marine habitats⁵

Supplemental information as requested by Chair at May 2021 meeting./Kozmon

Recommended disposal of invasive plant material

- Seal in plastic and send to garbage⁷
- Burn⁷
- Create pile of non-viable material for use by wildlife⁷
- Dry/cook material under tarp or black plastic – this process may take up to six (6) weeks⁶

References

- 1 University of Florida, Landscaping Backyards for Wildlife, 2003
- 2 University of Florida, Invasive Species Terminology, 2020
- 3 The Nature Conservancy, Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species, rev. 2021
- 4 University of Florida, Aquatic Invasive Plants affecting North Florida, no date
- 5 University of Florida, Plant Management in Florida Waters, 2021
- 6 University of Florida, Removing Invasive Plants, rev. 2020
- 7 Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, Guidelines for Disposal of Terrestrial Invasive Plants, no date
- 8 University of Florida, Invasive Plants, 2012

Supplemental information as requested by Chair at May 2021 meeting./Kozmon

A sample survey of East Hill parks (noted by SW corner)

12th Avenue and Bobe –
Chinese Tallow – prohibited⁹ *

14th Avenue and Cross –
Nandina 'Heavenly Bamboo' – invasive⁹
Chinese Tallow – prohibited⁹ *
Camphor Tree – invasive⁹

15th Avenue and Lakeview –
Camphor Tree – invasive⁹

16th Avenue and Blount-
No invasive plants identified

17th Avenue and Gonzales –
Camphor Tree – invasive⁹

18th Avenue and Bobe –
Camphor Tree – invasive⁹

A sample survey of the right-of-way on 14th Avenue from Bobe to Gonzales (distance of 1 mile.)

Between Yonge and Bobe – West Indian lantana and Japanese honeysuckle

Between Maxwell and Jordan – Camphor Tree

On the corner of Jordan – West Indian lantana

Between Hernandez and Lakeview – Japanese climbing fern

On the corner of Lakeview – Nandina 'Heavenly Bamboo'

Between Lakeview and Avery - Asparagus fern, Camphor Tree

Between Avery and Mallory – Camphor Tree and Nandina 'Heavenly Bamboo'

Between Lee and Lloyd – Camphor Tree.

*Prohibited plants are those that are not to be sold, propagated, or transplanted. There is no requirement that established plants be removed from a landscape.

References

9 UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas, 2021

Environmental Advisory Board

Goals 2021

To be presented for discussion. Items NOT voted upon or finalized

1. Tree Planting Trust Fund
 - a. Develop an application form for the grant program established under the Tree Planting Trust Fund for community organizations. **This is being worked on**
 - b. Research whether the Tree Planting Trust Fund can be used as a source for grants that require matching funds. **This question was asked of our Finance Director who opined, -- I would think so as long as the grant or at least the Trust Fund portion is explicitly for acquiring, planting and maintaining trees or other vegetation.**
 - c. Propose a revision of the Tree Ordinance to strengthen protections for trees by a review of the mitigation fees.
 - d. Propose a thorough review and evaluation of the Tree Ordinance
 - i. Encourage City Council and Mayor sponsor a series of workshops to participate in the discussion.
 - e. Facilitate a discussion with Public Works and Finance in order to learn more about the stormwater fees, their uses, maintenance costs, legal limitations and overall view of the stormwater program within the City
2. Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - a. Recommend inclusion within the City budget for the purchase of an electric vehicle(s) when replacing City vehicle(s)
 - i. For example, designate an electric vehicle to a City employee, then highlight on website with monthly updates on savings compared to previous years costs. Placard with car info and QR Code with updates.
 - b. Recommend to the City Council and Mayor that the City transition from carbon based energy sources to renewable energy and/or wind with a goal of 100% by 2040.
 - c. Solar/renewable energy
 - i. Recommend to the City Council and Mayor that the City explore the feasibility of installing solar panels on City buildings
 - ii. Encourage educational opportunities for the public on options, costs, rebates, tax credits, loans, what type(s) of building(s) would/would not benefit from the installation of solar panels
 - iii. Invite speaker to address renewable energy projects
 - d. Walkability/rideability ("complete streets") (in process)

3. Sustainability

- a. Recommend City form an internal City committee to develop a Sustainability Action Plan (in process)

4. Environment

- a. Explore the need for a City-wide Integrated Pest Management Plan that extends beyond just Parks & Recreation

5. Education

a. Presentations at each EAB meeting

- i. Tracking of individual projects of interest to the EAB, through the TPO and other relevant organizations
- ii. Recommend a city-wide collaboration for the identification, inventory and proper removal of invasive plants from City properties (Alex to work with IFAS)
- iii. Updates on the City's actions regarding the sustainability plan (Mark Jackson)
- iv. Dark Sky City
 1. Tim Day, Deputy Director Natural Resources Department, Escambia County (how to set goals for the City, how to establish a Dark Skies ordinance)
 2. Recommend to the City Council and Mayor the adoption of a Dark Sky Ordinance which provides for the use of Dark Sky Lighting.
- v. Provide information to the public regarding options, costs, rebates, tax credits, loans, what type(s) of building(s) would/would not benefit from the installation of solar panels for residents and City buildings – **This item might need to be reworded to provide the location of relevant information as opposed to the pushing of information. Especially if not requested to do so by either the City Council or the Mayor.**
- vi. Recycling
 1. ECUA Materials Recycling Facility (Jim Roberts, ECUA)
 2. Best practices
- vii. Ocean Hour and Keep Pensacola Beautiful
- viii. IFAS
- ix. Explore the value of the preservation of private land habitat (economic benefits, quality of life, property values) for potential future recommendations
- x. Florida Paddling Trail Association and Blueway Community (Joe Webb and Paul Pipes)

- b. Public Outreach by EAB members (speaking at neighborhood associations and other meetings) – **I would be cautious of this without being requested by the City Council or Mayor. Keeping in mind that this board is a recommending board, so the actions taken (when not specifically requested or directed) need to be recommendation based.**

Item 6(a)

May 26,2021 - Kozmon

A review of minutes from 2019-2021 revealed a number of entries regarding pounds of garbage collected by community groups. As a Board, are we satisfied that this issue is being addressed through the community groups collecting this garbage, coupled with (unknown) anti-littering efforts undertaken by the city? Should this issue, having been brought to the attention of the Board be looked at for additional address; possibly through a dedicated committee tasked with identifying the garbage material, tracking the cleanup efforts and developing/implementing a community awareness campaign regarding littering and damage to watersheds/watercourses?

References to watercourse/watershed garbage collection from EAB minutes 2019-2021:

Minutes of January 2021

item 7 - 400 pounds collected

Minutes of February 2021

item 9 - 1,935 pounds collected

Minutes of March 2020

item 7 - 1000 pounds collected

Minutes of October 2019

item 4e - 4,900 pounds collected

Minutes of May 2019

item 3f - 1,088 pounds collected

Minutes of April 2019

item 4f - 1,010 pounds collected

Minutes of January 2019

item 3f - 710 pounds collected

10,578 total pounds collected in 2018