



City of Pensacola
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Agenda

August 5, 2021

2:00 pm

Hagler/Mason Conference Room,
2nd Floor

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person. City Council encourages those not fully vaccinated to wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth.

1. Call to Order/Quorum
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 - a) July 1, 2021
3. Update: Sustainability Coordinator
 - a) Public Announcement Florida Native Plant Society—2021 Request for North West Florida Native Plant Proposals
4. Discussion Items:
 - a) Plan and Process for EAB Comprehensive Review of Tree Ordinance and Process for Tree Trust Fund Grants and Requests
5. Board Member Comments/Updates, Reports and Announcements
6. Public Comments—Open Forum
7. 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

July 1, 2021

2:00 pm

Hagler/Mason Conference Room,
2nd Floor

Members Present: Kristen Bennett, Chair, Kelly Hagen, Vice Chair, Neil Richards, Katie Fox, Kyle Kopytchak, Alex Kozmon, Jay Massey

Members Absent: Michael Lynch, Blase Butts

Others Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Mark Jackson, Sustainability Coordinator, Sonja Gaines, Dr. Haris Alibašić, Christian Wagley

1. Call to Order/Quorum

The meeting was called to order. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
a) June 3, 2021

Member Massey questioned the use of the word “proposed” in the first two bullet points contained on page three. Council Executive indicated that was language contained in the ordinance creating the Environmental Advisory Board.

Member Kozmon requested that language referring to making brief comments on the information he gathered on invasive species for the goals discussion be removed since he did not make a formal presentation on this information. It was attached as information only.

Chair Bennett clarified that what was submitted to the City Council for Goals and Priorities were bullet points and did not get into specifics.

Member Kopytchak mentioned that the line for New Business on the agenda has not been included on the agenda since April and wondered how new items could be brought forward.

Council Executive indicated that work was in progress to have agenda items brought forward for board review, along with coming up with rules and procedures for the Board. New Items could be brought up under Board Member Comments. The ultimate goal is to have all the boards have similar items like the agenda items for City Council, to be able to report actions, etc.

Member Kopytchak moved for approval of the minutes, as amended.
Member Massey seconded the motion and it carried 7 – 0 with two absent from the meeting.

3. Presentation:
 - a) Green House Gas Emissions - Haris Alibašić, Ph.D., MPA, University of West Florida and former member of the City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force

Vice Chairman Hagen introduced Dr. Haris Alibašić to make presentation to the Environmental Advisory Board.

Dr. Haris Alibašić addressed the Board, reviewing his work on the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force as well as his extensive background working in Grand Rapids, Michigan on sustainability issues. He was glad to see that the City joined IGLE as recommended by the Task Force. One of the main concerns for the EAB is setting strategies for reduction of green house gas emissions. The role that the Sustainability Coordinator is fulfilling for the City is critical and he is doing an excellent job. Another item to consider is looking at the franchise agreements with regard to solar power projects and underground power lines. He is also fully aware of the City's natural gas enterprise and the financial contributions it makes to the City. He also mentioned the importance of managing stormwater and stormwater infrastructure.

Vice Chair Hagen inquired about requiring underground power lines.

Council Executive indicated that Gulf Power has a ten year plan for installing underground power lines, It seems like the focus will be on various neighborhoods.

Member Richards asked how the City's gas company could become a part of the solution to climate change. They are in the business of burning carbon, which is the enemy of climate change.

Dr. Alibašić stated there are ways to expand their operations and the natural gas company would know how within the legal boundaries of the state of Florida.

Member Richards indicated in England and Europe there are experimental operations undergoing to mix hydrogen with natural gas and not require any adjustments on appliances at a certain level. He also mentioned with the current political climate, to encourage the City to apply for as many grants as possible that are renewable energy friendly.

Sustainability Coordinator indicated that with the recently completed resiliency study and legislation that was passed, they would be holding workshops. He wasn't sure if any carbon reduction grants would be a part of it but rather adaptation and resiliency projects would be included.

Chair Bennett mentioned with regard to solar, the FPL's 30 by 30 plan which is to install 30 million solar panels by 2030 and they surpassed 40% completion by installing more than 12 million solar panels within the state of Florida. Changes are being made.

Member Hagen inquired about specific recommendations that the Board could make to the City Council and Mayor. Should the Board recommend advocating for a champion in each department, having the City push for changes in the franchise agreement, or working in cooperation with the University of West Florida.

Dr. Alibašić indicated any or all of those suggestions would be okay.

Member Kopytchak inquired as to whether it would be appropriate to have the Sustainability Coordinator reach out to representatives from Gulf Power and Pensacola Energy to see if they currently have localized plans for reductions that they could bring to the Board.

Sustainability Coordinator indicated that both entities probably had a plan but he couldn't comment specifically. Pensacola Energy did have a contract approved at the last Council meeting to purchase carbon offset gas with BP. Gulf Power does have a plan to build 2 new solar fields within Escambia County. He volunteered to reach out to the City's contact with Gulf Power regarding making a presentation.

Chair Bennett wanted to follow up on Member Hagen's suggestions for possible

recommendations from the Board. What she noted was advocating for a champion in each department, addressing the franchise agreement, cooperation between the University of West Florida and the City and following up on the greenhouse gas emissions report and targets.

Member Hagen thought it was important to have the City advocate for underground utility lines.

Member Fox thought it would be better to have a representative from Gulf Power speak to the Board regarding their plan prior to making any recommendation to the City.

Sustainability Coordinator could not speak specifically regarding Gulf Power's plan, however it is something the City has identified in the franchise agreement. Where it stands in the negotiations, he wasn't sure about.

Council Executive indicated that the recommendations from the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force were very broad and that the EAB would look at those and come up with more specific recommendations.

Member Richards suggested waiting on the data that the Sustainability Coordinator is gathering for his report.

Member Kopytchak thought it would be beneficial to receive information from a representative of Gulf Power and Pensacola Energy on their plans and what residents can do and then the EAB could educate the public on promoting that sustainability.

Member Massey indicated the Board's focus should be on strategies.

In moving forward, Chair Bennett recapped discussions that a representative from Gulf Power make a presentation to the Board, learn what actions Gulf Power is taking and once the Board has that information, then move forward with recommendations.

4. Update: Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Coordinator is looking at a lot of grant opportunities to do green water stormwater projects and LEED projects. The Building Inspection Director informed him that there was another preemption bill passed into law,

House Bill 1059 talks about new building permits and how fast they need to be processed. They have included penalization to where the fees will have to be reduced. They will have to look at the hold time in the tree ordinance and it might have to be modified. He is still working on the carbon baseline study and compiling information into a report and presentation to the Council.

Council Executive gave kudos to the Sustainability Coordinator for looking ahead at some of the precursors that have to be in place so that the City can apply for some of the available grants. As the City moves forward with a new administration it is important to realize the need for the Sustainability Coordinator. It is a tremendous benefit. He is pushing very hard to hire an arborist in the next budget.

Sustainability Coordinator also reported that he is working on securing funding to have a feasibility study to look at installing solar energy on existing roofs to see if existing building roofs can support having solar panels installed. There are a number of buildings that are scheduled to have new roofs and need to be sure that they along with new buildings are up to standards to hold solar panels.

5. Discussion Items:

a) EAB Recommendation: Comprehensive Review of Tree Ordinance

Council Executive reported on the goals and priorities of the Board that were presented to City Council. The Council was very appreciative.

Chair Bennett encouraged the Board members to review the discussion from the Agenda Conference and the City Council meeting.

Council Executive also informed the Council that the Environmental Advisory Board is very much more engaged and with the level of expertise on the Board, the Board wants to do something and hopefully the Council will send the Board more things to review because of the expertise represented on the Board.

With regard to the comprehensive review of the tree ordinance, the logical place for that process to begin is with the Environmental Advisory Board. Eventually, it will have to go to the Planning Board because it is an amendment to the Land Development Code. The process needs to start with the Environmental Advisory Board to review by sections, in conjunction with City Staff, and create a functional document that the Board could then send to City Council for referral to the Planning Board.

The Board could make a recommendation to the City Council that a comprehensive review of the tree ordinance be undertaken, with necessary revisions and that the City Council assign to the appropriate body.

Member Kopytchak expressed his concerns with the existing tree ordinance on the front end and the back end of the process.

Council Executive clarified that there was a tree ordinance currently in place and also the other proposed amendments put forward from the Emerald Coastkeepers. If there is a problem now, then need to contact the City Inspection Director if it is related to buildings and permits.

Sustainability Coordinator indicated that they were working through the process with the permits. There are learning curves to work through with the process.

Further discussion occurred with regard to the process and hiring of an arborist or including that recommendation in the upcoming budget. There is an ordinance that mandates that an arborist do this on the front end and on the back end. It is the Mayor's job to determine the makeup of City staff. It's the Council's job to pass the budget.

6. Board Member Comments/Updates, Reports and Announcements

Member Richards mentioned the priority of recommending the process for funding of tree trust funds for neighborhood organizations. He suggested breaking that Item from the tree ordinance and deal with it, since the fall tree planting season is approaching.

Member Kozmon inquired if there had been any response from the Mayor's office to the recommendation of an internal committee to look at a sustainability plan.

Council Executive indicated that he would inquire.

7. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley reported on his budget event with Audubon Florida and will forward a link to the Board. There should be increments to help reach the 2030

goal for renewable energy. There should be a little bit happening every year so that it doesn't all happen in 2029.

He also mentioned the American Rescue Plan Act funding and possibility of using some of those funds for homeowners to do additional weatherization for low income families in the community. The City does not spend enough money on trees and there is a need to spend money on trees.

Chair Bennett recapped the Board's discussions. Sustainability Coordinator will reach out to representative from Gulf Power to make presentation to the Board. There are three recommendations to go to the City Council. One, that City Council initiate a comprehensive review of the tree ordinance and assign that review to the appropriate body. Second was to recommend that the City Council budget for an Arborist in the upcoming budget. Finally recommend a process for developing funding from the tree trust fund and assign the development of that process to the appropriate body.

Council Executive indicated that the third item was already assigned to the Board. The Board just needs to develop the process and then send to City Council. Member Butts, Sustainability Coordinator and Council Executive are working on developing the process.

Member Kozmon made a motion to have City Council initiate a comprehensive review of the tree ordinance and assign to the appropriate body. Member Kopytchak seconded the motion and it carried 7 – 0, with two members absent.

Member Fox made a motion to encourage City Council budget for an Arborist in the upcoming budget process. Member Kozmon seconded the motion and it carried 7 – 0 with two members absent.

Discussion occurred on the possibility of having a presentation from a representative of Solar United as well as a representative from Gulf Power.

Member Kopytchak indicated that he would also like to have a representative from Pensacola Energy make a presentation on their plan.

Member Kozmon asked if criteria should be established so that presentations being made to the Board would help the Board make sound recommendations to forward to the City Council and or Mayor.

Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Board

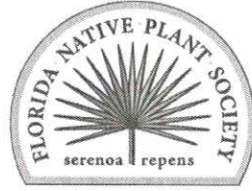
July 1, 2021

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8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Item 3(a)



**Florida Native Plant Society
Longleaf Pine Chapter**

2021 Request for Northwest Florida Native Plant Project Proposals

General Information - The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) Longleaf Pine Chapter (LPC) of Northwest Florida's mission is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

FNPS LPC is initiating a public request for local projects to promote the study and education of native plants in our region. FNPS LPC will contribute \$500 to be awarded to a chosen project. Applicants do not have to be FNPS members.

Projects most focus on native flora of our northwest region of Florida. Examples of acceptable projects may include botanical/ecological research in native habitats, propagation research for the native plant landscape industry, restoration studies, native plant educational/demonstration gardens etc.

Following completion of the project, the award recipient agrees to summarize the results and (1) provide a visual presentation at a monthly FNPS LPC meeting, (2) prepare a short summary of the project with photographs for the FNPS publication magazine, the *Palmetto*, and/or the *Sabal minor*, and (3) submit material (photographs/project summary) to be included on the FNPS LPC website. The project must be completed and presented to the FNPS LPC within one year of the award.

Questions regarding the Longleaf Pine Chapter Native Plant Project Proposal should be sent to fnps.longleaf.pine@gmail.com.

Submittal Information - Submit completed applications by **September 30, 2021** to qualify for the current calendar year's application cycle. Applications must be submitted via email in either a Microsoft ® Word document or Adobe ® pdf format, to fnps.longleaf.pine@gmail.com.

Award Process - The FNPS LPC Board will review submissions. Applications must be complete for a project to be considered for funding. Applicants will be notified via email by **October 30 2021**, as to whether or not they have received a project award. The FNPS will announce the award recipient(s) at the monthly meetings.

Evaluation Criteria - The LPC Board of Directors will give highest consideration to projects that accomplish at least one of the following goals:

1. Promote the preservation, conservation, restoration, and/or protection of NW Florida native plant taxa and NW Florida native plant communities.
2. Heighten community and/or scientific awareness of NW Florida native plant taxa and native plant communities.

References:

Florida Native Plant Society <https://www.fnps.org/>

Longleaf Pine Chapter <https://longleafpine.fnpschapters.org/>

---END---

(DO NOT SUBMIT ABOVE PAGE WITH GRANT APPLICATION, FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE)



**FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION**

Name of Individual and/or Organization Applying for Grant:

Name of Primary Contact (if other than above):

Mailing Address:

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

1. Add pages to this application form to incorporate the following information:

a. Project Title

b. Project Location

c. Project Narrative: Describe the project. Include project goals and objectives and state whether this is an on-going project. Describe coordination with other individuals or organizations. Describe how this project promotes the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

d. Budget Detail: Provide an estimated cost of the overall project.

e. Project timeline schedule: Provide general/expected timeline for the project.

2. Grant Applicant Signature:

Signature Date

Printed Name and Title