

**CITY OF PENSACOLA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 5, 2018**

**Members Present:** Neil Richards, Chairman, Dr. Gloria Horning, Robert Bennett, Blase Butts, Calvin Avant

**Members Absent:** Kyle Kopytchak, Michael Lynch, Steve Elliott

**Others Present:** Christian Wagley

1. Call to Order/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richards. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Minutes—June 7, 2018

**Motion made by Member Horning to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018 meeting, seconded by Member Avant and was unanimously carried.**

3. Presentation: “Solar Power Demystified”—Robert Bennett

Member Bennet gave a power point presentation on solar power, the benefits/non-benefits in both residential and commercial usage, project costs, maintaining power grids, interesting data, certification requirements, solar usage in car charger stations, and answered Board questions.

4. Updates:
  - a) 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tree Replacement and No Parking Enforcement—No update given.
  - b) Review of tree and landscaping regulations—No update given
  - c) Criteria for Tree Fund Grant Proposals—No update given
  - d) Sanders Beach Stormwater Drainage—No update given
  - e) Environmental Justice/Injustice—Member Avant reported on a recent meeting he attended in New Orleans sponsored by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. They have a planning grant that the Unity Family Ministry is going to be a part of dealing with water quality and stormwater drainage with the Kresge Foundation to see what can be done in minority communities, doing surveys to see if these issues are being addressed. He also updated the Board on the workforce training on electric and solar panel installation, as well as cybersecurity.

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- f) Water Quality of Bay/Gulf—Member Butts reported that Ocean Hour is about 50% ahead of last year's number of tons of debris picked up and has noticed more and more stormwater debris and trash along Scenic Highway going into the bay. Something needs to be done to prevent this.

Member Horning stated they had just finished the Public Lab on stormwater and the theme is "Only Rain Goes Down the Drain". They will be putting together public service announcements and will be doing two neighborhood clean-ups one in the Tanyard and one in Mayfair. The drains that have sort of the mouth on them will be painted depending on location, with a theme on it and the adopted slogan. The Public Lab out of New Orleans and Flood Forum are funding all the aspects of it.

Member Butts also mentioned finding out locations where water fountains are set up to fill water bottles in the City. What does it cost to install one? There are seven out at the Gulf Islands Seashore, Gulf Breeze Recreation Center has two, the YMCA has two, the Brent building has one, the Airport has some. These should be located in parks and playgrounds where parents can refill water bottles instead of purchasing water in plastic bottles.

Chairman Richards suggested that this could possibly be something that the EAB could recommend to the Council--to identify projects that would help the public on a case by case basis. To figure out the cost to retro-fit existing fountains or build water bottle filling stations.

- g) Flooding/Toxin Issues in Tanyard and h) Environmental Impacts on Disenfranchised Communities—Member Horning further explained the stormwater educational public service announcements, videos, and handouts being developed to give neighborhood associations and neighborhood clean-ups to show the difference that it not only blocks the drain and may cause a flooding impact on their homes, but they are also showing where the stormwater drains come out.

The stormwater pond still doesn't work. ECUA is pumping out to install new pipes and adding more pumps so that they can pump to the emergency tank located in North Hill and then building a new sewage treatment plant and another emergency storage tank and now algae bloom has started in the standing water and is coming out in the bay.

- i) Renewable Energy Sources—Member Bennett stated the national solar certification is the NABCEP. He issued a caution to use reputable companies when seeking

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residential quotes for solar panels. Chairman Richards asked what is the future of fuel cells and conversion to hydrogen as a fuel source as opposed to carbon.

Member Bennett indicated that fuel cells are tough. The big issue in fuel cells is the creation of hydrogen. Basically all your fuel cells break down the carbon fuel and make hydrogen out of it. The carbon is recoverable and often used as a catalyst. The cost of that process is very expensive. Even on a utility scale, it is still problematic of making it economical.

5. Old Business:

Member Bennett asked about getting a copy of the list of EAB accomplishments and plan of action. Chairman Richards indicated that he did a verbal presentation to the Council.

6. New Business:

There was none.

7. Reports and Announcements:

Member Horning announced that under the leadership of Ann Hill and the Tanyard Association they are doing a Bruce Beach Clean-up on July 18 at 3 p.m. It is the first step in saving Bruce Beach and keeping it open to the public. Member Avant suggested contacting Robert Hill at WRNE because of the significance of Bruce Beach with the African American community.

Chair Richards announced the Science Hour hosted by UF/IFAS would be on Thursday, July 12. The program will be an update on RESTORE projects and funding. Also, the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force will be meeting immediately after the EAB meeting at 3:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. They are getting close to finalizing their report.

8. Board Member Comments:

Member Bennett encouraged other members to go online to [www.portsidepensacola.com](http://www.portsidepensacola.com) and complete the Port Study survey.

9. Public Comments—Open Forum

No one made comments

10. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.