

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

Thursday, January 2, 2020 ~ 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Neil Richards, Chair, Bob Bennett, Vice Chair, Blase Butts,  
Dr. Gloria Horning, Calvin Avant, Katie Fox

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

1. Call to Order/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—December 5, 2019  
**Motion made by Member Horning to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Butts and was unanimously carried.**
3. Board Member Comments/Updates:
  - a) 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tree Replacement and No Parking Enforcement—Kyle Kopytchak  
No update provided.
  - b) Perdido Pensacola Bay Estuary Program—Michael Lynch  
No update provided
  - c) Criteria for Tree Fund Grant Proposals  
Chair Richards reported no further feedback from the staff or the City Council.
  - d) Environmental Justice/Injustice—Calvin Avant  
Member Avant reported that he would miss the February meeting. He will be in Durham, NC for the National Institute of Environmental Science. He will be doing a presentation on the work being done in Wedgewood. He will bring back a report from the workshop. He also reported that he met with County officials. They are putting together an ad hoc committee that will be working with environmental justice issues and anything the City needs to talk to the County about concerning environmental justice issues please pass along to him so that he can pass along to the ad hoc committee.
  - e) Water Quality of Bay/Gulf—Blase Butts  
Member Butts reported last weekend, they picked up 1,239 pounds of trash at Bruce Beach. For the year, on four different occasions, they picked up over 2100 pounds of trash at Bruce Beach. It is surprising how much trash is buried there. He also commented on the use of water filling stations and how they help alleviate the use and disposal of plastic water bottles.

Brief comments were made by City Council Member Ann Hill regarding the \$17.5 million dollars of re-bonded CRA funds. The SCAPE projects are proposed; however nothing has been done to cement those. Hopefully, some water bottle fill-up stations can be located in District 6 in the downtown area. There is a lot going on with the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Program. UWF has just gotten a grant to help with monitoring. Next Tuesday, there will be another meeting on the Kayak Paddle Trail. Clean water is vital to all recreation.

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Further comments were made concerning Bruce Beach and the amount of trash that is being dumped, placement of trash receptacles, the toxic soil placed there from the Maritime Park development, the need for testing the soil and determining the environmental impact it has had on the site.

### f) Flooding/Toxin Issues in Tanyard and Pensacola--Gloria Horning

Member Horning reported the flooding issues haven't changed. The proposed development that will occur on the Studer Property as well as the Community Maritime Park sites goes against the recommendations of the Climate Change Task Force with regard to building in flood zones and expressed concern over the needed infrastructure and implementation of stormwater assessment fees that would impact residents living in the Tanyard. Sanders Beach remains number 11 as a most polluted beach in the State because of the runoff of the creosote plant that use to be there.

Chair Richards reported that he talked with a member of the Sanders Beach Neighborhood Association and he understands that the EPA standards have been met. The Sanders Beach Neighborhood Association is waiting for the title to change and the capped off mound to be moved someplace else.

Further discussion occurred on the various pollutants, whether bacteria or dioxins, are involved with the water quality at Sanders Beach and being able to research and obtain reliable data.

There is a need to know what is in the water at Sanders Beach. It is important to know if it is from run-off, or from stormwater or from ships. Member Butts committed to look into the matter and report his findings. Member Horning also indicated that she would send the Board reports that she has.

### g) Environmental Impacts on Disenfranchised Communities—Gloria Horning

### h) Renewable Energy Sources—Neil Richards, Robert Bennett

No update provided. Chair Richards reported he signed a solar portable tank system for his house.

### i) Stormwater Management—Katie Fox

No update provided.

## 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

City Council Member Ann Hill stated there was a little discussion on what point to get the EAB's reference to doing anything with the trees—does it come in at \$25,000 or is it applicable to the \$10,000 that each Council Member has been allocated.

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So far, none of that has been resolved. They are looking at ways to add trees to the environment.

Chair Richards indicated that at the last meeting he handed out some information from the University of Florida and asked for Board members thoughts on how to make recommendations to the different groups in the City. The way the Ordinance stands, the EAB is the recommending organization to any neighborhood association or garden clubs within the City. The EAB needs to come up with the guidelines so that they can be presented to the various organizations and to the City Council. The list should include the proper species, the locations with regard to proximity of buildings, conditions of soils, overhead power lines, underground utilities, wind resistant trees, etc. Also need assurance that the requesting organization will be able to take care of that tree for the first year. He indicated that he thought it would be appropriate to contact the arborist for Escambia County and have her sit in on the next meeting.

Mary Gutierrez stated that the Board should stick to native species, geographically inclined for this area. Will need to ask for soil testing, look at species that have the capacity to hold stormwater.

Member Horning also mentioned having not only trees, but various swells and plantings that will help soak up the water.

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

Member Fox reported that the draft IPM plan provided by the Parks and Recreation Director is on her to do list.

### 5. New Business

Member Horning made a suggestion that the Board look at revamping the individual board member comments and updates and to come up with a sort of mission statement of what the Board is going to do within the City. Need to make a new roadmap because one issue will impact another issue downstream.

Mary Gutierrez stated that when she was on the EAB, the EAB had to give a yearly report to the City Council on what they had accomplished and also provide a list of goals for the upcoming year.

Chair Richards reported the board member comments and updates evolved from the various board members interests and expertise on environmental issues, and because of the sunshine law, board members can only address each other at an open meeting on various issues.



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Member Bennett indicated that most of what is covered under the Board Member Comments and Updates are just that. The Board could possibly look at focusing on two or three important issues. He made a suggestion to eliminate the topics completely and to come back to the next meeting with two or three priority items and talk, as a group, of coming up with the Board's priority items.

Member Fox also agreed with eliminating the listing of topics with names. If a member has anything to report, that it could be made under new business. Anything that had action taken at a previous meeting could go under old business to check for updates. More tangible, concrete items, that as a group, can be resolved.

Member Butts also mentioned having the Board informed ahead of time of what is being planned along the waterfront as it pertains to the SCAPE project and the effects it will have on stormwater into the Bay.

Member Avant agreed as well and indicated that members could bring up additional topics under new business.

Chair Richards suggested having someone from the Mayor's office or staff keep the Board updated on what they are doing and if there is anything the Board can do to help them.

### 6. Reports and Announcements

Chair Richards stated he was not sure whether Science Hour would be having a presentation next week. The Master Gardeners are having a presentation on January 13 at the Downtown Library on shade trees and hurricane resistance, how to prune trees and shrubs.

Member Bennett reported that on January 20, the Governor's Blue Green Algae Task Force will be having their next meeting. It can be viewed online. The meeting is suppose to address actions.

Member Horning mentioned an event that Earth-Ethics is having on January 13.

Member Fox reported that the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Technical Committee's next meeting is January 16 at 10 a.m., followed by a Policy Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. On Friday, January 31, the Northwest Florida Association of Environmental Professionals is having their monthly meeting. It will be a presentation from BPM Consultants. They are doing work for the City on the offshore brownfield site, from the Community Maritime Park.

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Member Butts reported Ocean Hour clean up, this Saturday at Naval Live Oaks and also the south end of Bob Sikes Bridge from 9 – 10 a.m. The following week is Bartram Park and Pensacola Visitors Center.

### 7. Public Comments—Open Forum

Mr. Tom Linke with the Whispers Cordova Homeowners Association expressed his concern with a significant stormwater runoff issue and the proposed development which will include a ten foot retention wall and removal of trees. He questioned whether the existing retention pond could handle the additional runoff of the proposed development. He passed around some photos, a schematic drawing of the proposed development and had a short video presentation of flooding issues.

Member Horning also expressed her concerns about the retention wall and the proposed development and the impact it will have on the residents. She suggested they ask for an environmental impact study to be done on the project. She also stated that she would be happy to furnish the Association with names of organizations that might be able to help them look at the issue. Flood Form USA and Higher Ground are two organizations that she suggested.

Mr. Gerald Newton stated that the engineering firm that is designing the development also designed the Whispers. There are issues with the retention ponds, one of which is non functioning and ultimately the water goes into Carpenters Creek and Bayou Texar. There is an ongoing dispute as to who owns the retention pond that is functional.

Member Fox suggested going back to the original plans for the subdivision and if there is a master planned community, it still needs to be permitted through the Northwest Florida Water Management District. In order to get an Environment Resource Permit, alteration of drainage, construction of a drainage pond, the whole purpose of that permit is to not cause any adverse impacts to adjacent properties. The Homeowners Association may want to find that permit application and see if they took into account off site run-on, which you are suppose to account for. With another master planned community coming in adjacent to the Whispers, need to watch those things closely, to be sure they are taken into account.

Other concerns were expressed by members of the Homeowners Association about permitting process, stormwater runoff, creating new access road through the Whispers, and having homeowners be responsible for maintenance of roads and stormwater if the road is a private road.

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Chair Richards indicated the Neighborhood Coordinator, Lawrence Powell, made notes on the concerns of the Whispers Homeowners Association and would make contact with them.

### 8. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board will be February 6, 2020. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

**City of Pensacola Environmental Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 2, 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
Ann Hill		850	City Hall
Peggy Martin		850 436-4911	1024 Windchime Way
SHARON DAY		850 4785734	1024 STORMY TER.
Kathryn Ray		205-527-6696	1672 Stormy Ter.
Gerald Newton		478-955-9442	1016 Stormy Ter.
Dave Murcin		850 380 8279	PO Box 30052 PHS 32503
John Smiley		808 232 4078	874 Bayshore Dr 32507



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**City Hall, 222 West Main Street**  
**2 P.M.**

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NAME (Please Print)	Agenda Item	Telephone Number	Address
Mary Gutierrez <i>ewh</i>		850-947-472	1241 Oceanic Highway 32503
Lawrence Fowler		850-530-0680	222 City Hall
Tia Booth		850-261-3418	4111 Gale Dr. 32503
Tom Linke		850-324-5700	1175 Windchime Way 32503



TARGET Shopping Center Parking Lot.

Hand out -  
Whisper Homeowners Assoc.  
EAB mtg. 8/2/2020

Retention Pond

Development

Proposed 10' development wall

Apartment

pipe leading

15-30-4

WINDCHIME WAY

GALE DR

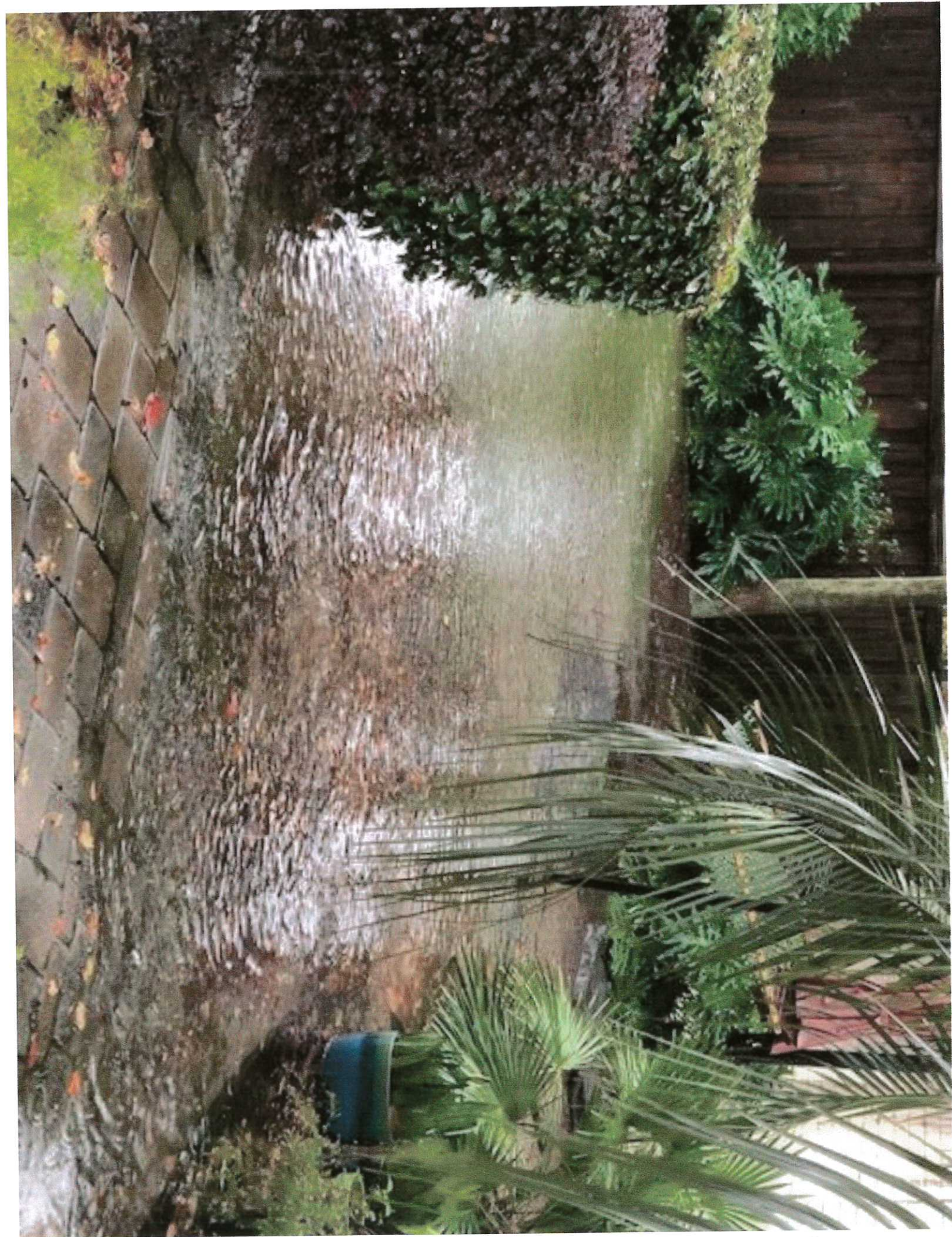
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1072 Stormy Terrace











