

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

Thursday, March 5, 2020 ~ 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Neil Richards, Chair, Kyle Kopytchak, Blase Butts, Calvin Avant,  
Katie Fox, Alexander Kozmon

**Members Absent:** Michael Lynch

**Others Present:** See attached sign in sheet.

1. Call to Order/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.

2. Oath of Office—City Clerk

The Oath of Office was administered to Board Members by City Clerk, Ericka Burnett.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes—February 6, 2020

**Motion made by Member Kopytchak to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Butts and was unanimously approved.**

4. Board Member Comments/Updates:

Chair Richards welcomed City Council Member Ann Hill and new Board Member Alexander Kozmon. Board Members introduced themselves and provided brief comments about their environmental interests.

Member Butts gave a brief update on the state focus on change meeting he recently attended in regards to drinking water and wastewater. The two biggest changes coming up are the changes in copper lead rules, where they are going to be doing testing of drinking water at schools for lead. The other dealt with the watersheds in the southern portion of the state, with the solids that come out of wastewater treatment plants being spread on the land and the contribution of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Chair Richards welcomed City Attorney Susan Woolf to do a presentation to the Board on the Sunshine Law and Public Records.

City Attorney Susan Woolf provided a briefing to the Board on the Sunshine Law and Public Records. The Sunshine Law is covered by Florida Statute 286.011. The three bare requirements of the Statute governing the Sunshine Law are that there must be reasonable notice of the meeting, minutes of the meeting must be taken and the meeting has to be open to the public. She reviewed other aspects of the Sunshine Law as to what constitutes a meeting and cautioned the Board Members who may be attending other meetings or social events to be cognizant of not discussing anything that is pending before the Board, has not received final

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action by the Board or City Council or may possibly be referred back to the Board for further action.

Public Records law is a different part of the State Statute, most under Chapter 119. Basically, everything is a public record. It will include email, text messages, and could include notes, if those notes are being used to pass on to someone else. Once the notes are shared with someone else, they become a public record. It doesn't matter if it is on your personal equipment or personal email address, if you are typing something on your personal phone or email something concerning this Board or the business of this Board, that will be a public record. The issue is what is the content.. Any communication that may be responsive should be forwarded to City staff so that it is captured for the record.

Also discussed ways in which public records requests could be made.

Member Avant provided a brief update on his work with the County in forming an Environmental Justice ad hoc committee to gather information from local communities that might be affected by issuing disposal permits. At this time, the county only receives information to consider from the applicant for the permit and that doesn't include any information about how it may impact the local residents.

Member Kozmon indicated that most of his observations and concerns would fall under the tree ordinance, specifically with the preservation of the mature overhead canopy and how that is being sacrificed for the expedience of development.

Member Fox provided an update on the public meeting regarding the RESTORE project for Carpenter's Creek/Bayou Texar watershed management plan. They are just getting started in their assessment phase. There will be more public meetings held that will discuss their findings and ultimately the document will identify projects that will improve different aspects of those water bodies. She did not attend any Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary programs in February.

Member Butts expressed his concern with the approach of the RESTORE project for Carpenter's Creek/Bayou Texar. All the money is going to be spent to "study" and it will be years before they do anything concrete. He expressed his concerns with the homeless encampments located along Carpenter's Creek and the amount of trash and litter that they generate that eventually will end up in Bayou Texar and also in Pensacola Bay.

Member Fox stated that from a professional, engineering, scientific standpoint, this is the correct process to go through. Bayou Texar has fecal problems. Someone could say it is from pet waste or dog waste but it might not be. They are going to work on identifying the true source, point source or non-point source and give an overall understanding of the entire system. It does take time to gather data.

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Chair Richards indicated that he had a conversation with representatives of Wood and SCAPE suggesting that part of the tree canopy funding was for Carpenter's Creek with Council Districts on both sides of the creek and wondered how that would fit into their overall plan. They informed him that there were several areas in the watershed that could use some tree canopy that would not be too far out of their recommendations.

### 5. 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

Chair Richards did some research so that the Board can make recommendations to the various neighborhood associations on how to request money from the tree funds that would identify the right tree, at the right price, at the right time, with the right type of soil that would encourage the tree to last a year. The Board needs to pair down the list of trees, so that it can be given to City Council. He's not received any requests from the City Council Members to pursue those guidelines. They can spend their first \$10,000 in each one of their districts.

Council Member Hill stated that she has spent the first money from her discretionary tree trust fund for the Puppy Pit Stop for Jefferson Street Garage. There was a form developed and it has been submitted.

Member Fox inquired whether any consideration had been given to the comments made by Mary Guitterez.

Chair Richards did review and thought the comments were geared to the bulk of the tree ordinance. The Planning Board will spend plenty of time on that part of the ordinance. He indicated that Board members were free to bring recommendations to the Board to be forwarded to the City Council.

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

Member Fox made a request to Brian Cooper that the Board be able to review a copy of the final draft IPM Plan. She felt it would be good to check in to see how their practice this year compares to last year after implementation of the document. They only had a schedule and not an IPM Plan. The Parks and Recreation Department proactively drafted an IPM plan and she was given an opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft. She has not seen a final draft of the plan. She has asked that once the final draft is ready, that the Board have an opportunity to look at it.

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### 6. New Business

- a) Referral from City Council—Review of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force's Recommendations with a view to the Governor's Environmental Budget Initiatives

Chair Richards indicated that this item was not really discussed by the Council, it was on the consent agenda. No information was provided on the Governor's proposed budget. In surface talks with City Council Member Sherri Myers, the Board would look at what the Governor asked for in the budget and what is approved; to look at some of the items that required money in the Task Force document and make recommendations to the Council and the Mayor on how to get some of the state money to move forward the recommendations of the Task Force.

Christian Wagley indicated that there were several bills before the legislature now that concerned climate/environmental issue and he would be happy to get those as well as the Governor's budget recommendations for the Board. There may be opportunities for state grants.

### 7. Reports and Announcements

Member Butts reported that the Seagrass Awareness Celebration would take place on March 6 from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. at Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze.

The Florida Master Naturalist program starts March 24.

Ocean Hour picked up over a 1000 pounds at Pensacola Visitors Center and the area around Graffiti Bridge. The next one will be Bartram Park, Pensacola Visitors Center and along Scenic Highway.

Member Fox indicated that the Pensacola Perdido Bays Estuary Program Technical Committee would be meeting on March 11 at the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center and the Policy Board will meet the same day at 1:30 p.m.

Science Hour will be March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Downtown Library on Wildlife Rescue and rehab.

### 8. Public Comments—Open Forum

Dave Robau, Executive Director of Gulf Coast Energy Network, doing technical conferences and workshops. They are interested in taking over the former superfund site, the Escambia Wood Treating Site. They have a vision of creating an Eco Industrial Park where ones industrial waste product could be another

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entities feed stock, so that it creates a circular economy at this park. He would welcome an opportunity to make a presentation to the Board on the proposed project. He gave members of the Board a brochure about the project.

He also mentioned a Building Smarter Communities SMART Cities workshop on March 24, 2020.

Chair Richards suggested that he get on the agenda for a presentation to City Council at their Agenda Conference.

Christian Wagley announce the next Slow Ride for Saturday, March 7. Saturday, March 14, 350 Pensacola is hosting a going Solar event. March 28 is Ciclovía and Veg Fest at Maritime Park. CivicCon is bringing in a certified Arborist and Planner to talk about tree ordinances and preservation on Monday, March 30 at the Rex Theatre.

Member Fox reported that Helen Gibson would be making a presentation on the Catalytic projects in the CRA Urban Core to NAIOP on March 18 at 7:30 a.m. at the Studer Community Center.

9. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.