



City of Pensacola

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

July 2, 2020

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Council Chambers

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Blase Butts. Participating remotely, Katie Fox, Michael Lynch, Alex Kozmon

Members Absent: Calvin Avant, Kyle Kopytchak

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher

1. Call to Order/Quorum

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

2. Oath of Office—Board Member Michael Lynch--City Clerk

The Oath of Office was administered to Board Member Lynch, by Assistant City Clerk Robyn Tice.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes—March 5, 2020

NOTE FOR THE RECORD: DUE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC, THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD DID NOT MEET IN APRIL, MAY, OR JUNE.

Motion made by Member Butts, seconded by Member Fox to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting and was unanimously approved.

4. Introduction—Mark Jackson, Sustainability Coordinator

Chair Richards welcomed recently hired Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson and invited him to address the Board on his background and issues he will be focusing on for the City.

Mark Jackson indicated that he would be working on issues involving brownfields, tree ordinance, greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, and other environmental projects. He is looking forward to establishing a good working relationship with the Board.

Board members discussed various aspects of the tree ordinance, recommendations on expenditures of the tree trust fund and the need for a tree canopy study.

Council Executive indicated that the City has already agreed to doing an update of the tree canopy study. The proposed revision to the tree ordinance, prepared by the Emerald Coastkeepers, is currently under review by the Planning Board. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the proposed public input meetings have not occurred. Once all input has been gathered, the Planning Board will review. The proposed changes were initiated by an organization and not by City staff. A City Council Member is proposing some minor changes to the existing tree ordinance involving the notification process. This item will be going to the City Council at their July meeting, for referral to the Planning Board, since the changes are part of the Land Development Code and ultimately may come back to the Environmental Advisory Board.

With regard to the tree canopy study, some things to consider are clear cutting and reforestation intertwined with development and landscape plans, invasive vs non invasive trees, the right tree, at the right place, the right time for planting, the right type of soil.

5. Board Member Comments/Updates:

Member Butts announced that Ocean Hour has been assigned an intern to perform 120 hours to look at storm water issues and was looking for suggestions on how to use the intern.

Member Kozmon suggested looking at yard waste abatements to prevent yard waste from entering stormwater drains.

Other comments included getting with Chris Mauldin and Roger Williams with Public Works to get the schedule for stormwater vault cleaning and to evaluate what gets past the vaults and eventually enters local waterways.

Chris Mauldin indicated that current stormwater projects were underway on Alcaniz Street, Spring Street, Davis and Airport as part of the City's capital improvement plan.

6. Old Business:

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

Member Fox reported that she has not received the final IPM plan from Parks and Recreation Department; however she did receive a copy of it from Christian Wagley. She would like to receive the final copy from the department.

Council Executive indicated that the City Council considered an ordinance at their June meeting creating Section 7-15 of the City Code regulating commercial application of fertilizer. The ordinance will be up for second reading at the July meeting.

Member Fox also indicated that the Pensacola/Perdido Bay Estuary Program did receive their funding.

7. 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:

- Review summary prepared by Christian Wagley of climate-related legislation considered during 2020 Legislative Session.

Board noted receipt of summary provided by Christian Wagley.

8. Reports and Announcements

Member Butts mentioned the possibility of getting rid of septic tanks that may still be in existence and contributing pollutants into Bayou Texar. There are grants available to get septic tanks replaced; however ECUA has to have lateral lines in place to enable connectivity. The grants won't cover installing lateral lines. He was unable to find any information regarding how many septic tanks were still in use and where they are located.

Member Fox indicated that Bayou Texar and Carpenter Creek watershed is part of the study underway with the Escambia County Restore project and that might be something they can address.

Mark Jackson indicated that he was looking forward to working together with the Board to address environmental issues.

9. Public Comments—Open Forum

Council Executive reported no one completed an on-line form to speak during open forum.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.