



City of Pensacola
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

August 6, 2020

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Kyle Kopytchak, Katie Fox

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher, City Administrator Keith Wilkins, Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

1. Call to Order/Quorum

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—July 2, 2020

Motion made by Member Butts, seconded by Member Kosmon to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2020 meeting and was unanimously approved.

3. Board Member Comments/Updates

Council Executive indicated that the Tree Ordinance is currently being reviewed by City staff in coordination with the Emerald Coast Keepers. Once prepared, public input will be sought and will eventually go before the Planning Board and City Council for approval.

Member Avant inquired about the \$75,000 FDEP grant the City recently received and wanted to be sure that environmental injustice lands were not overlooked. He requested contact information for the staff person that will be overseeing the grant project. Council Executive will provide him with the information.

4. Updates from Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson indicated that he is working on the Tree Ordinance, looking at the brownfield sites within the City, and also working on Urban Forest Grants and various stormwater grants.

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Chair Richards inquired about the carbon baseline study.

Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson indicated they were in the process of gathering baseline information and also looking at several software packages that would improve the data collection. They don't have a full report to release at this time.

5. Old Business:

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

Chair Richards expressed his gratitude to the City staff for putting forth the Ordinance regulating commercial application of fertilizer for the protection of local water bodies.

City Administrator indicated that the ordinance follows the minimum standards as set by FDEP and adopts those standards for Florida-Friendly Use of Fertilizer on Urban Landscapes. It applies to the application of fertilizer. City Council member Sherri Myers would like to see it apply to the use of herbicides and pesticides. He has been unable to find any other counties in the state that incorporate those uses with the application of fertilizer. Perhaps some sort of buffer zone or set back could be established.

b) Tree Fund Activity

Council Executive reviewed the tree planting trust fund activity for the month of June. The beginning balance was \$495,450.87, fees collected amounted to \$27,700 leaving a balance of \$528,973.87.

City Administrator indicated that they were looking at developing a plan, working with the Neighborhood Coordinator and the various neighborhood associations, working with CNAP. They are also reviewing the proposed changes to the Tree Ordinance to do a major overhaul and work together to develop a process and set some parameters.

Member Kozmon inquired if it is possible for the City to establish a trust to invest the tree funds into.

Council Executive indicated he was not certain that could be done because the funds are public dollars.

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6. New Business

a) Solar in the City

Council Executive reported there is an item coming forward to the City Council for an approval of solar property use agreement with Gulf Power. Representatives from Gulf Power will be making a presentation at the August 13 agenda conference.

City Administrator indicated that this agreement is to do small pilot projects, shade structures, and solar trees. He also mentioned the Florida State Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, which is a tax assessment on property for solar installation. The assessment stays with the property and not the homeowner. The Florida Green Finance Authority oversees the program. Dave Robau is a member of the Authority and could possibly give a briefing on the program to the Board.

b) Green Building Ordinance

Chair Richards indicated he would like to have the Board review this ordinance and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

7. Reports and Announcements

Member Butts indicated that he and the Ocean Hour intern were unable to get with Roger Williams to assess what is cleaned out of storm vaults and that the intern would be looking at other alternative projects. Also, ECUA experienced two sewer overflows, one in Big Lagoon and the other in Carpenters Creek.

8. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley commented on the Green Building Ordinance, stating that the ST Aerospace Building would be a good place to install solar panels in compliance with the Green Building Ordinance. He also commented on the lack of trees being planted from the tree trust fund and was excited to learn about the Gulf Power agreement.

City Administrator also stated that the City was in the process of reviewing the Gulf Power franchise agreement and would be looking at efforts to allow individuals to produce their own energy.

Chair Richards mentioned that he wished there was some way to have Gulf Power improve their tree trimming practices and to perhaps use insulated lines

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or be encouraged to bury lines, especially in the tree tunnel along 12th Avenue.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Handout 8/6/2020
EAB Meeting

TREE PLANTING TRUST FUND (Included in the General Fund)

BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$495,450.87				
FUND BALANCE					
REVENUES					
TREE TRUST FUND					
INTEREST					
TOTAL REVENUES AND FUND BALANCE					
EXPENDITURES					
PERSONNEL SERVICES					
OPERATING EXPENSES					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					

At the end of the June 30th, 2020, the Unencumbered balance of the Tree Planting Trust Fund was: \$528,973.87

Fees collected through June 30, 2020 for the Tree Planting Trust Fund are \$26,700

This is comprised of the following collections:

Address	District	Amount	Purpose
1820 E. Gonzalez Street	4	\$ 3,600	Removal Without Permit Penalty
2910 N. 12th Avenue	5	\$ 19,100	New Commercial
927 E. Fisher Street	5	\$ 1,000	New Single Family Home
324 s. "N" Street	7	\$ 1,000	New Single Family Home
359 Clubbs Street	7	\$ 1,000	New Single Family Home
1289 E. Avery Street	5	\$ 1,000	Removal of Tree at Existing House
5653 Leesway Blvd.	1	\$ 1,000	Tree & Roots damaging Home
		\$ 27,700	