



City of Pensacola
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes

December 3, 2020

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Hagler/Mason

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Blase Butts, Kyle Kopytchak, Michael Lynch, Katie Fox, Alex Kozmon

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher, Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson, Christian Wagley

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

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes—September 3, 2020 and November 5, 2020

September 3, 2020

Member Kozmon inquired as to whether clarification of the term “public property” should be included on page 3 of the September 3, 2020 minutes, under the comments made by Mark Jackson. After discussion, no clarification was necessary.

Member Kozmon moved for approval of the September 3, 2020 minutes, seconded by Member Kopytchak. The motion was approved unanimously.

November 5, 2020

Member Kozmon noted a correction to the spelling of IFES, as noted on Page 2. The correct spelling is **IFAS**.

Member Kopytchak moved for approval of the November 5, 2020 minutes as amended, seconded by Member Butts. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Board Member Comments/Updates

Member Butts inquired about the status of the Bruce Beach project and the plans to have a walkway through there. Council Executive indicated that it was still in the design phase and that part of the agreement with the Audubon Society to plant

trees on the property included review with SCAPE to insure that the trees planted fit within the overall design so that they would not have to be moved once the project is put out for bid.

Member Butts also inquired about the status of the marina under construction behind the Fish House and whether any consideration was given to what happens when a hurricane hits, in light of barges getting loose during Hurricane Sally. With the anticipated house boats in that marina, what happens to the wastewater lines.

Member Kopytchak indicated there would have to be some sort of cut off system with the sewer line.

Chair Richards inquired as to whether the Council Executive has had an opportunity to review environmental concerns with the new City Council.

Council Executive indicated that he has not. The new Council was installed on November 24 and their first meeting will take place on December 10. There are four new City Council Members. The agenda for that meeting is relatively light, in order for the new Council Members to become acclimated. As part of their onboarding, time was set aside for the Sustainability Coordinator to come down and meet with them and to give an overview of his position and some of the things that he is doing.

a) Stormwater Runoff and Vault Sediment Study—Blase Butts

Member Butts provided an update on his recent field trip with Sustainability Coordinator to review clean-out of stormwater vaults. He was surprised to see the amount of leaves and debris that gets captured in the vaults and was glad that the City has invested so much in improving stormwater drainage into the waterways. A lot of the plastic debris is coming directly from the Bay.

Further discussion with Sustainability Coordinator occurred with regard to the maintenance contract, schedule, process involved and eventual dumping of collected debris. Member Butts indicated that he would like to find out where the debris is being dumped and to see what is collected.

Chair Richards stated that the City does have an ordinance in place regarding placing debris in the street and that lawn maintenance companies should be educated about the ordinance and blowing debris into the street that will ultimately go into the storm drains.

4. Updates from Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

The coordination to get the tree replacement for trees lost in City parks is moving forward pretty aggressively. FEMA does not give money to replace the trees, only the money to pick up the debris. He is working in conjunction with other City staff to insure that in developing this replenishing plan that it is adequate and replacing the trees that were lost in such a way that it will not cause problems in the future, and utilizing the right tree, right place guide.

A kick-off meeting was held with SustainaBase, Inc. the company doing the greenhouse gas emission collection reporting for the City and will hopefully have some data collections by January.

5. Old Business:

a) Board Member Comments: IPM Plan

Member Kozmon provided his input on proposed revisions to the IPM Plan. Further discussion occurred regarding the proposed revisions previously submitted by Member Fox, the additional revisions submitted by Member Kozmon and whether they should be submitted back to the Director of Parks and Recreation for his consideration in revising the IPM Plan. Member Fox agreed to meet with the Director of Parks and Recreation to present both proposed revisions to the Plan for his review and comment back to the Environmental Advisory Board once he has reviewed.

6. New Business

a) Review of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report

Chair Richards asked for the Board's thoughts as to what additional items in the Task Force Report the Board should consider for recommendations to the City Council and the Mayor for action. One of the first recommendations the Board made was to establish an Office of Sustainability and that was accomplished with the hiring of the Sustainability Coordinator. The other recommendations were to establish a carbon baseline and also to join ICLEI and those have been done as well. The other item that was recommended was to establish through an official act or resolution that the City commit to meet 30% renewable energy target by 2030 and 100% by 2040. That item was pulled by the sponsor and never got put back on the agenda for City Council.

Christian Wagley indicated that the reason it was pulled was that the new Mayor had just come into office and was going through some of the strategic plan with Council and needed more time.

There will be an on-line event held on December 8th called Pensacola Climate Action, What's Next. Several former members of the Climate Change Task Force as well as City staff, Cynthia Cannon and Mark Jackson will be participating. It will be a recap of their recommendations, what's been accomplished and then how to go about accomplishing the other recommendations. The registration link will be provided to the Board.

Member Kopytchak indicated that in moving forward with additional recommendations that there would be cost factors involved and that it would need to be introduced to the City during their budget process. To re-introduce the emissions by 30% by 2030, there are no cost estimates indicated and no how to accomplish it.

Sustainability Coordinator stated that as an advisory board, the EAB would advise the City of the kinds of things to do, and wouldn't have to set out a plan to do. It is not in the scope of work. The Council Executive could certainly advise you as a group.

Christian Wagley pointed out that the City did receive a grant for a vulnerability study to look at the resiliency, vulnerability and more detail mapping on what areas are vulnerable.

Member Kozmon suggested having a special meeting to go through the Task Force Report and identify which recommendations are within the scope of the Environmental Advisory Board and then prioritize those recommendations.

Christian Wagley suggested to wait until hearing the former members of the Task Force at Tuesday's event talk and hear what their priorities are. He suggested making this the first item for discussion so that the Board could devote more time and get a full discussion of the item.

Comments were made by Member Kopytchak regarding the condition of the trees along the 12th Avenue tree tunnel and how there are still "no parking signs" in place. The root systems of the trees are mainly surface roots.

7. Reports and Announcements

Chair Richards reminded everyone of the December 8 zoom event on Climate Change.

Brief comments were made about the Pensacola Perdido Bay Estuary Program. A new Executive Director has been hired. They also initiated a mini grant program.

Member Fox reported that FAEP is having a virtual seminar on December 4 and the Florida Stormwater Association is having a virtual conference all this week and they have some interesting topics.

Chair Richards reported that he participated with the Audubon Society in the tree planting at Bruce Beach.

Brief comments were made about solar energy. Sustainability Coordinator mentioned Solar United Neighbors (SUN). They are a co-op. They reach out to the community as a non-profit and get people who are interested in solar to sign up. They take that co-op of people who signed up and put it out for bid.

Member Kopytchak suggested that Solar United be invited to make a presentation to the Board to educate the City on solar energy.

8. Public Comments—Open Forum

Christian Wagley mentioned that he was making a concerted effort to meet with the new City Council members to make them aware of the Climate Task Force's recommendations and to gear up for the Council to endorse the 100% renewable by 2040. The budget needs to address that priority.

He is also working with two local, home-grown solar companies in town to get proposals/assessments done on some of the key city buildings that could support solar to show the City what kind of potential is there that they are currently not realizing. One potential site is the ST Aerospace Hangar #2. The City has said they are not going to do solar there. He feels it is a missed opportunity. He further reminded the Board of the green building ordinance that requires City projects to be built green. It would be good for the Board to receive an update on what the administration is doing to follow that ordinance.

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Chair Richards reported that he has been doing research on the use of hydrogen as an energy source rather than carbon and also on bio-char, which is a form of carbon that can be put back into the soil to reduce carbon and improve the soil.

He also mentioned the three vacancies existing on the Board and hoped that the new Council would fill the vacancies.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.