



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, July 11, 2022

5:30 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

Chair English called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair English, Vice Chair Hall, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Holland and Board Member Lafler

Also Present

Environmental Technician Jeremy Rogus and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. [22-3106](#) Approval of Minutes for the June 6, 2022 Environmental Advisory Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

6. New Business

A. [22-3146](#) Discussion and Possible Action to Review and Define the Environmental Advisory Board Priority Action List

Chair English introduced the item.

Mr. Rogus presented a review of the emailed suggestions he received from the Board.

Discussion ensued regarding the priority action items adopted by the Board, presentation to the Commission, endorsement to move forward, designating a park to begin the program, using funds from Tree Fund, petitioning permission from Parks and Recreation Department, partnering with volunteer community groups, converting drainage ponds into wetlands, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) restrictions, seeding near the future Veterans' Memorial Park, and water feature near North Port Library.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Board Member Holland, to recommend to the City Commission in a memo, to move forward with the installation of super pollinator bee stations and butterfly gardens around city buildings and parks, using tree funds. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hall, seconded by Board Member Holland, to work on retention ponds encouraging swale beautification by planting indigenous trees, flora and fauna that attracts natural wildlife habitat (mini nature preserves) and cleans stormwater (de-nitrification) prior to discharge to canals and ultimately Myakka River, Myakkahatchee Creek and Charlotte Harbor. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Discussion continued pertaining to ordinance language requiring environmentally and habitat friendly stormwater retention, incentives to builders, placing a dry retention area before or after a stormwater retention pond, conserving easements, perpetual retention pond maintenance, researching other cities' best practices, and disconnect between water quality and the reality of present-day stormwater maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allain Hale: mowing retention ponds.

7. Updates

A. [22-3147](#) Update Regarding Memos Sent to City Commission (Jeremy Rogus)

Chair English introduced the item.

Mr. Rogus provided updates including memorandums regarding septic conversion, the Planning and Zoning Advisory Board, the Tree Fund, and the joint meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding spotlighting homes that save trees and lack of green signs on new constructions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allain Hale: tortoise preservation article in Orlando Sentinel.

8. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included feasibility of gopher tortoise relocation on public/private land, a presentation of Florida Wildlife Conservation (FWC), Board Member Hall's letter, discussion and possible action on the two priority action items, action items to advise Commission on (1) adoption of water quality solutions and habitat preservation in City stormwater design and development regulations, (2) native plantings in public parks and spaces (e.g. bee stations and butterfly gardens), and discussion and possible action to provide suggestions to Commission for potential uses of tree fund monies.

Discussion ensued regarding a water quality manager for the City, swale inspections, septic inspections, deep well injection, and local wildlife trading cards.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

Chair English adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

William "Chuck" English, Chair

Minutes were approved on the ____ day of _____, 2022.