



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, February 7, 2022

5:30 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present 7 - Chair Hale, Vice Chair English, Board Member Hall, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Grona, Board Member Holland and Board Member Lafler

Also Present

Stormwater Manager Elizabeth Wong, 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.

Chair Hale introduced Jackie Lafler, who provided a brief history of her past experience.

Ms. Wong introduced the new liaison to the Board, Jeremy Rogus, who provided his background and interests in environmental issues.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. [22-2193](#) Approval of Minutes for the January 3, 2022 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding a possible error under New Business where it was stated the consensus was to send the Chair as a representative, and Board Member Holland was present and was marked as absent.

Ms. Hale stated she will listen to the meeting and report her findings at the next meeting where the minutes can be approved.

6. Updates

- A. [22-2209](#) Review and Possible Action Regarding the Draft Letter to the City Commission Outlining a Proposal to Schedule a Joint Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Planning and Zoning Advisory Board, and the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Ms. Wong explained the process for items to be presented to Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of meeting being requested, finding an agreeable date for the meeting, inter-committee communication regarding shared projects or projects that have a shared impact, possible avenues to share and/or obtain information, a virtual collaborative forum, and clearly outlining the Board's intent and purpose.

There was consensus to amend the draft letter to Commission as follows:

North Port's Citizen Advisory Boards all have defined responsibilities. However, there are areas of overlap among the boards dependent upon the projects and objectives of the boards. With the concurrence of the Commissioners, the Board would like to send a Board representative to attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the following citizens' advisory boards: Planning and Zoning Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board.

The objectives of said meetings would be to facilitate the communication of overlapping environmental issues, share informational resources when appropriate, eliminate potential duplication of tasks/projects, and work together on activities that fall under the auspices of multiple advisory boards (when appropriate and in the best interests of the City.)

- B. [22-2210](#) Review and Possible Action Regarding the Draft Letter to the City Commission Requesting more Board Involvement in the Approval of Future Waivers that may Impact the Environment.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board's concern to protect wildlife, pseudo laws that do not protect the environment, the negative effects of clearcutting parcels of land, and avoiding future waivers due to setting a precedent of allowing waivers.

Ms. Wong addressed how and when the Board wants the Commission to inform them, the chain of notifying the Board, and watching for issues on the Planning and Zoning Advisory Board regarding waivers.

A motion was made by Vice Chair English, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to send the following memo to the City Commission amending the current date.

Due to the rapid pace of development that is taking place in North Port, the EAB is of the opinion that all residential subdivision development that takes place should be held to the minimum 10% park requirement outlined in ULDC 37-14.

Natural habitat is disappearing while population density is increasing. Considering

these factors, we do not believe waivers to said provision should be granted for current or future developments.

Waivers that affect parkland, environmentally sensitive lands, water resources and/or wildlife habitat generally come under public scrutiny and discussion. The Environmental Advisory Board asks the Commissioners to consider notifying their EAB of said waiver requests.

Additionally, we respectfully suggest that the Commissioners weigh whether the minimum park requirement merits an upwards adjustment in response to said population density increases and natural habitat losses

The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

- C. [22-2211](#) Update on the City's Property Acquisition of the Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Project and the Trail between Appomattox Drive and Price Boulevard.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Ms. Wong presented a map of the status of the Tier I and Tier II lot acquisitions along the Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway, indicated the ownership of Tiers 1, and 2, the Master Plan for the Greenway, the Appomattox Trail to include the project being designed and permitted, a budget amendment being approved, and anticipated timetable to finish the trail.

7. New Business

- A. [22-2208](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding scheduling a Joint Meeting with the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board Regarding Designating Pan American Boulevard to Little Salt Spring as a Historic Area.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding creating a communication bridge with the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board and contacting the Board through proper channels.

A motion was made by Vice Chair English, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to direct Mr. Rogus to schedule through proper channels, a joint meeting with the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board to discuss designating Pan American Boulevard to Little Salt Spring as a Historic Area. The motion carried unanimously on a voice note.

- B. [22-2057](#) Discussion Regarding the Gulf Coast Community Foundation Playbook in Relation to Septic Systems.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding items that may be a benefit to the City,

There was consensus to continue Item No. 22-2057 to the March Board Meeting.

C. [22-2213](#) Discussion Regarding Surtax-proposed Project Requests Related to the Environment.

Chair Hale introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding public requests pertaining to projects, finding the surtax online through Sarasota County Surtax, and an email of proposed projects being sent to Board Members.

There was consensus to continue Item No. 22-2213 to the March Board Meeting.

8. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included feedback on the two draft memos, discussion and possible action regarding scheduling a Joint Meeting with the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board, discussion regarding surtax-proposed project requests related to the environment, with Chuck English emailing backup documentation to the Board liaison, discussion of accomplishments of the Board during 2021, and a discussion regarding a memo pertaining to septic regulations, maintenance, and conversion to City Water.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

Chair Hale adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Allain Hale, Chair

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