



City of North Port
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
Alaina Ray, AICP, Director
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the North Port Commission

THRU: A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, City Manager

THRU: Jason Yarborough, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Manager

THRU: Alaina Ray, AICP, Development Services Department, Director

THRU: Lori Barnes, AICP, Development Services Department, Assistant Director

FROM: Jeremy Rogus, Arborist, Staff Liaison to the Environmental Advisory Board JAR

SUBJECT: Advisement to City Commission from the EAB to expedite creation of a Natural Resources Division

DATE: November 7, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Members of the North Port Commission,

Code of the City of North Port Chapter 4, Boards and Committees – Article IX, Environmental Advisory Board – Section 4-182, states that The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) shall advise the City Commission on matters pertaining to preserving and promoting wildlife, habitat protection, trees, the City’s natural and environmental resources, its flora and fauna, tree planting and care, beautification of public spaces, and safeguarding environmental quality for the future.

On November 6, 2023, during their regular meeting, the EAB discussed and made motion to approve the attached advisement to City Commission to expedite creation of a Natural Resources Division

Attachments:

A. EAB Natural Resources Manager Memorandum

Attachment A

Dear Mr. Fletcher and North Port City Commissioners,

I (Erin Hall) am writing to you on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Board of the City of North Port to urge the immediate appointment and hiring of an interim Natural Resources Manager. The urgency of this request is driven by the critical need to expedite the allocation of specific projects that would utilize the tree fund monies effectively, contribute to habitat preservation efforts, and facilitate the selection of suitable consultants for conducting an advanced tree canopy study of the City of North Port.

The preservation and enhancement of our natural resources have become increasingly imperative in light of the ongoing environmental challenges faced by our community, especially with the ongoing massive commercial and residential development of our City, while simultaneously safeguarding our valuable ecosystems and biodiversity. As you know finding the right candidate has been a lengthy process. We cannot afford to postpone moving forward with the tree fund projects while the search for the right candidate continues. The appointment of an interim Natural Resources Manager will significantly contribute to the fulfillment of the tree fund objectives.

We would also like the interim Natural Resources Manager to have privy to the memo sent to the Commission regarding the EAB recommendations for preservation of City owned land sent and dated October 10, 2023.

We remain dedicated to working collaboratively with the City of North Port to foster a greener and more resilient community. We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to the swift action in addressing this pressing concern.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Thank you,

Environmental Advisory Board:

Desiree Holland
William English
Jessica Eik
Erin Hall
Casey McGowan
Lola Robinson
Linda Amos
Amber Clayton