



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, September 12, 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 4 - Chair English, Board Member Hall, Board Member Therrien and Board Member Lafler

Absent 1 - Vice Chair Holland

Also Present

Environmental Technician Jeremy Rogus and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Rogus.

4. Public Comment

Allain Hale: Tree Ordinance and managing revenue.

Discussion ensued regarding oversight of tree fund expenditures.

5. Approval of Minutes

- A. [22-3386](#) Approval of Minutes for the August 1, 2022 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting.

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

6. Unfinished Business

Chair English requested Mr. Rogus provide an update of memos sent to Commission including responses..

Mr. Rogus spoke to status of memos and stated he will provide an accurate status of the Board's request.

7. New Business

- A. [22-3432](#) Discussion and Possible Action to Recommend that the City Commission

Support Adoption of Water Quality Solutions and Habitat Preservation in City Stormwater Design and City Development Regulations.

Chair English introduced the item.

Ms. Holland was to provide information but was absent from the meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Lafler, to postpone Item No. 22-3432 until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

B. [22-3433](#)

Discussion and Possible Action to Recommend that the City Commission Support the Native Plantings in Public Parks and Spaces (e.g. Bee Stations and Butterfly Gardens).

Chair English introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding creating an action plan, prototype examples to be provided by Ms. Holland, planting trees at pollination sites, tree planting and bee stations being two separate projects, partnering with Parks and Recreation Department, Board Member Therrien attending the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and a presentation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Lafler, seconded by Board Member Hall, to direct Mr. Rogus to contact the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board liaison to request they give a presentation to the Environmental Advisory Board regarding partnering with the bee stations and butterfly park projects. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

C. [22-3434](#)

Discussion and Possible Action Concerning a Recommendation to the City Commission Regarding Potential Uses of Tree Fund Monies.

Chair English introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding tree give-away program, Sarasota tree planting program, Commission workshop regarding tree fund revenue, presenting suggested uses of tree fund revenue at the Commission workshop, clear cutting, hiring an independent contractor to perform the tree survey, use of the contractor's software, establishing a baseline tree count, and funding for the software from the Tree Fund.

Public Comment:

Allain Hale: adopting Jacksonville's Tree Fund Program.

A motion was made by Board Member Hall, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to add the following to the Commission Workshop list: signage for newly planted trees, water bags on new trees, fact sheets for trees and shrubs, tree software/consulting package for tree survey, and a tree give-away program. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

D. [22-3435](#)

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Feasibility of Gopher Tortoise Relocation on Public Land or Private Conservation Easements within the City of North Port.

Chair English introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding relocating gopher tortoise habitat on private property and public/private property or municipal land.

A motion was made by Board Member Lafler, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to remove Item No. 22-3435 from the Board's action profile due to jurisdictional authority of the Florida Wildlife being governed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The motion carried on a voice vote with Chair English dissenting.

8. Updates

There was nothing to report.

9. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included a report on pesticides and insecticides used in North Port's "No Spray" zones for conservation areas, the City's policy for clear-cutting property, Board Member Hall's memo regarding pesticides used in Sarasota County, Board Member Therrien's report concerning attendance at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, a report regarding the Commission's Tree Fund Workshop, update on the Commission Meeting on September 27, 2022, Board Member Holland's Item Nos. 22-3432 and 22-3433, update from Mr. Rogus regarding contact with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison, and Items from last month's meeting that were postponed.

10. Public Comment

Allain Hale: clearly defining what the Tree Canopy Study will encompass.

11. Adjournment

Chair English adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

William "Chuck" English, Chair

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