



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, November 7, 2022

5:00 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present 4 - Vice Chair Holland, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Lafler and Board Member Robinson

Absent 3 - Board Member Hall, Board Member Rodriguez and Vice Chair English

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. [22-3593](#) Approval of Minutes for the September 12, 2022 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting.

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

6. New Business

- A. [22-3591](#) 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.

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item and provided a review of the Board's initiatives including examples of wildlife corridors, eco-friendly retention ponds, and creating bird sanctuaries.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Lafler, to continue Agenda Item No. 22-3591 to the next Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. [22-3592](#) 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).

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding bee and butterfly stations in City parks, volunteer help to move the initiative forward, Butler Park being the first location, North Port Parks for Pollinators Bio-list program being spearheaded by the Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with The North Port Environmental Conservancy, and efforts by other groups.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allain Hale: the Environmental Conservancy, properties in North Port not contiguous for consolidation purposes, Gopher Tortoise relocation efforts, and parks as preservation sites for animals.

Mr. Rogus noted that the Parks and Recreation Assistant Director will attend the December Board meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Lafler, to continue Agenda Item No. 22-3592 to the next Board meeting, including an update pertaining to the response from the Parks and Recreation representative. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

- C. [22-3262](#) Discussion and Possible Action Concerning a Recommendation to the City Commission Regarding Potential Uses of Tree Fund Monies.

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding forwarding the Board's recommendations to Commission, beneficial business alternatives to clear-cutting trees, focusing on larger scale environmental projects, North Port's tree canopy count, planting trees on empty lots, acreage needed for Gopher Tortoise protection, and utilizing fund money to purchase lots.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Lafler, to continue Agenda Item No. 22-3262 to the next Board meeting, including an update concerning the Commission Workshop's response regarding the Board's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Updates

- A. [22-3594](#) Report from Attending the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Kathleen Therrien)

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item.

Board Member Therrien provided a report including the positive reaction of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding a bee sanctuary park, Commission's past discussion regarding advisory boards, partnering with the library system to house the historical paperwork, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board being combined with the Environmental Advisory Board.

- B.** [22-3595](#) Contact with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board' Liaison Regarding a Partnering with the Board's Bee Pollination Stations and Butterfly Parks (Jeremy Rogus)

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item.

This item was discussed under Agenda Item No. 22-3592.

- C.** [22-3596](#) Memo Regarding Pesticides Used in Sarasota County (Erin Hall)

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item.

Board Member Hall was unable to attend the meeting and the item will be placed on the December meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Lafler, to continue Agenda Item No. 22-3596 to the next Board meeting, to include the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) list of pesticides used in Sarasota County. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

- D.** [22-3597](#) Action on September 27, 2022 Commission Meeting Regarding the Environmental Advisory Board's Formal Request to be Included in the Review of Requests for Waivers to Open Space and Park Requirements Contained in Section 37-14 of the Unified Land Development Code (Jeremy Rogus)

Vice Chair Holland introduced the item.

Ms. Lafler reported the Commission's direction was to attend Planning and Zoning Advisory Board Meetings, the Board having no jurisdiction regarding waivers, and speaking as a public individual.

Discussion ensued regarding the Woodland development's reduction of green space, perusing Planning and Zoning Advisory Board agendas for trigger phrases regarding waivers, and continuing this discussion each month.

A motion was made by Board Member Lafler, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to continue Agenda Item No. 22-3597 on each month's Board agenda as a report by Board Member Lafler. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

8. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include the Agenda Item Nos. 22-3591, 22-3592, 22-3262, 22-3596, and 22-3597.

Discussion ensued regarding weekend clear-cutting trees without permits, green signs for clear-cutting unenforced, spreading awareness of clear-cutting, and City's website link to determine lawful permits.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

Vice Chair Holland adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

William "Chuck" English, Chair

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