



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Advisory Board

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Monday, April 1, 2019

6:00 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 244

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### 1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Board Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room 244 by Chair Driest.

### 2. Roll Call

**Present** 6 - Chair Edie Driest, Vice-Chair Lauri Fern, Board Member Carolann Palm-Abramoff, Board Member Allain Hale, Board Member Verna Blaine, and Board Member Barbara Lockhart

**Absent** 2 - Board Member Janet White, and Board Member Ashley Higgins

### Also present:

Staff Liaison David Jayroe and Recording Secretary Ida Goodman.

### 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

### 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

[19-0293](#)

Approval of March 4, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

It was noted that under Agenda Item 8 of the March 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes, the amended motion should be changed to read "nutrient problem".

***A motion was made by Board Member Blaine, seconded by Board Member Palm-Abramoff to approve the March 4, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.***

### 6. Unfinished Business

[19-0302](#)

Tree Survivability Provision Pertaining to Cutting and Shaping of Trees

Staff Liaison Jayroe provided an overview of the presentation to be provided to City Commission regarding the tree Ordinance and provided a list of Ordinances from other Cities pertaining to this subject.

[19-0303](#)

Preservation and Conservation of Land

Discussion ensued regarding history of neighborhood parks, tree protection and required

35% tree canopy, Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council, funding for future parkland, adding this item to the next Agenda, land swapping of escheated lots to protect scrub jay populations,

***There was a consensus for Staff Liaison Jayroe to initiate an invitation for a representative from the Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council and the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee to provide information regarding parkland and environmentally sensitive land allocations and to leave this item on the Agenda for the next meeting.***

## 7. New Business

### [19-0304](#)

#### Environmental Outreach and Community Activity

Discussion ensued regarding a grant to further educate the public on the use of fertilizer, utilizing the North Port Report and North Port Facebook page for environmental issues.

***A motion was made by Board Member Palmer-Arbramoff, seconded by Board Member Blaine to recommend that staff include in every publication of the mailer "The North Port Report" a box containing an environmental message. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

***A motion was made by Board Member Blaine, seconded by Board Member Hale to include in the first edition of the North Port Report the statement from the Environmental Advisory Board in their annual report which read, "Nutrients consist of compounds that are biologically available for micro-organisms to use in the environment as food or "fuel." Nutrient sources include fertilizers, agricultural activities, human and animal waste, leaking septic tanks, and natural decomposition of living material (organic matter). The nutrients of most concern (the "bad nutrients") are Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P); both of these are essential to life. Excess nutrients in the environment can contaminate our waterways, especially during the rainy season, and subsequently promote algae blooms (some of which can be harmful). If everybody does their part to limit nutrients getting into the waterways, we can reduce the supply to micro-organisms that feed red tide and other algae blooms". The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

### [19-0305](#)

#### Wildlife Corridors

Discussion ensued regarding environmental issues in the City Comprehensive Plan, methodology for the Board to provide recommendations, park connectivity, North Port's drainage system and Public Works map of North Port waterways, and residential rear easements.

***A motion was made by Board Member Blaine, seconded by Vice-Chair Fern, that Board Member Lockhart submit a public records request for the City of North Port mapping of the drainage systems and waterways. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

***There was a consensus to add this item to the next Agenda under unfinished business.***

### [19-0314](#)

#### Scrub Jay Lots in North Port

Discussion ensued regarding map of identified scrub jay areas, tracking the habitat of scrub jay, nesting habits of the scrub jay, methodology for land management to secure scrub jay habitat, and the Audubon Society.

Board Member Lockhart agreed to contact the Audubon Society for information they can provide regarding scrub jays.

***A motion was made by Board Member Palm-Abramoff, seconded by Vice-Chair Fern to approve Board Member Lockhart contacting the Venice Audubon Society to gain any information they may have on Scrub Jays. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.***

Board Member Lockhart provided a map of the City owned vacant parcels.

Discussion ensued regarding escheated lots, land preservation and wildlife corridors, process for developing a land swap program, funding for land conservation, Commission budget hearing, public input for land conservation, developing incentives for maintaining scrub jay habitat.

***A motion was made by Board Member Lockhart, seconded by Board Member Palm-Abramoff that the Board recommend that the North Port City Commission set aside \$5,000,000.00 in funds in the City budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 and beyond for the purchase of land to be designated as conservation land to ensure protection of portions of the City's environment.***

***A motion was made by Board Member Lockhart, seconded by Board Member Blaine to amend the main motion to add the words, "and the protection of the City's wildlife species to include scrub jays, gopher tortoises and other protected species to always be here for future generations.". The motion as amended carried unanimously by voice vote.***

#### [19-0316](#)

#### Limiting Single Use Plastics

Board Member Palm-Abramoff provided information regarding single-use plastic including links to resources with additional information.

Discussion ensued regarding eliminating the use of single-use plastic at City facilities and functions, available websites for information regarding single-use plastic, substitutions for the use of single-use plastic products, including information on single-use plastic in the North Port Report, and a recommendation to the City Commission regarding the use of single-use plastic.

***There was a consensus to include this item on the next meeting agenda under unfinished business.***

### 8. Future Agenda Items

Agenda items for the next meeting will include review of the Unified Land Development Code chapters pertaining to environmental issues, possible presentation from the representative of the Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council and the Environmental Sensitive Land Oversight Committee, and wildlife corridors and single-use plastics under unfinished business.

### 9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 10. Adjournment

***A motion was made by Board Member Blaine, seconded by Board Member***

*Palm-Abramoff to adjourn the April 1, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

The Environmental Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Edie Driest,  
Chair

Minutes were approved at the Environmental Advisory Board meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.