



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, May 2, 2022

5:30 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present 6 - Vice Chair English, Board Member Hall, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Grona, Board Member Holland and Board Member Lafler

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

Allain Hale: spoke to sustainability and environmental grants.

Mr. Rogus introduced the City's new Utilities Director Nancy Gallinero.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. [22-2737](#) Approval of Minutes for the April 4, 2022 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting.

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

6. New Business

A. [22-2758](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Election of a Chair.

Vice Chair English stated nominations were now in order for the office of Chair.

Board Member Lafler nominated Merilee Grona, who declined. Board Member Hall nominated Chuck English as Chair.

Vice Chair English queried if there were any further nominations. Without objection, the nominations were closed.

The nomination of William "Chuck" English as Chair carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chair English stated nominations were now in order for the office of Vice Chair.

Board Member Hall nominated Desiree Holland as Vice Chair.

Chair English queried if there were any further nominations. Without objection, the nominations were closed.

The nomination of Desiree Holland as Vice Chair carried unanimously on a voice vote.

B. [22-2754](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Septic Regulations and Conversion to City Sewer System.

Chair English introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding a long-term City water plan, monitoring septic companies, testing plans, inspection schedules and fees, and Big Slough water testing.

Board Member Hall read the draft letter to Commission into the record.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Hall, to send a letter of recommendation to the Commission pertaining to environmental impacts of septic systems. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Gallinero spoke to a Commission Workshop discussion implementing septic to sewer conversion and purchasing property for a vacuum station.

Mr. Rogus addressed the process of sending a draft letter to the Commission.

Ms. Gallinero spoke to the purpose of a vacuum station.

Discussion continued regarding testing canal sediment.

C. [22-2756](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Memorandum to the City Manager Relating to Disbursement of Tree Fund Monies.

Chair English introduced the item.

Board Member Hall distributed and read a draft letter into the record regarding disbursement of Tree Fund revenue.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's tree coverage, marketing value of trees, declining tree canopy, using discretionary funds to plant trees, and finalizing the letter next month.

There was a consensus to place Item No. 22-2756 on the June Meeting Agenda for review and approval.

D. [22-2765](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Memorandum to the City Manager Relating to Request a City-Wide Canopy Study.

Chair English introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding expected results of the tree canopy study and raising public awareness of trees.

Chair English queried if there were any objections to reordering the agenda. Without

objection, Chair English reordered the agenda to table further discussion of Item No. 22-2765 to the end of the meeting.

E. [22-2757](#) Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to an Environmental Advisory Board Priority Action List.

Chair English introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding a wildlife corridor at I-75, disc golf, trees planted near retention ponds, proof of land clearing, fines for illegal tree removal, plastic bags as refuse, paper straws, clear cutting during the nesting season, purchasing environmental conservancy lots, truck stop on Sumter Boulevard and I-75, bee pollination substations, Environmental Advisory Board social media postings, septic issues, canal cleanups, a baseline for canal contaminants, environmental hazard brochure, nature preserves, students' environmental ideas, geo-caching at environmental sites, purchasing escheated lots, and environmentally friendly stormwater retention.

There was a consensus to direct Mr. Rogus to collect the environmental priorities suggestions from Board Members, collate the list and email to Board Members, who will vote on three favorites and email back to Mr. Rogus. The final three shall be approved at the June 6, 2022 Meeting.

[22-2765](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Memorandum to the City Manager Relating to Request a City-Wide Canopy Study.

Board Member Hall revisited the letter to the Commission incorporating changes and she will send to Mr. Rogus.

Mr. Rogus spoke to framing realistic recommendations to Commission using Board duties as a guide.

There was a consensus that Board Members review the document at home, email Mr. Rogus their suggested changes, and prepare the document for final approval in June.

7. Updates

A. [22-2755](#) Update Regarding Memos Sent to City Commission Pertaining to Environmental Advisory Board. (Jeremy Rogus)

Chair English introduced the item.

Mr. Rogus stated he had no update at this time.

8. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included discussion and possible action regarding the Memo to the Commission relating to disbursement of Tree Fund Monies, finalizing the Memo to the Commission regarding a Tree Canopy Study, memo to the Commission regarding Septic Regulations/Conversion to City Water, memo to the Commission regarding a joint meeting with other Boards, scheduling a joint meeting with the Commission, and to review and define the Board's Priority Action List.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

Chair English adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

William "Chuck" English, Chair

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