



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, September 9, 2019

6:00 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

Chair Driest called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Rollcall

Present 5 - Chair Edie Driest, Vice-Chair Lauri Fern, Board Member Carolann Palm-Abramoff, Board Member Allain Hale, and Board Member Verna Blaine

Also Present:

City Manager Pete Lear; Stormwater Manager Elizabeth Wong, Staff Assistant Lindsay Louke, City Arborist David Jayroe, Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Raducci, and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

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

4. Public Comment

Alice White: read concerns into the record that were given to the Board last June and not addressed.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. [19-0909](#) Minutes for the August 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

Discussion ensued regarding suggested corrections to the minutes on page 2 and the recording secretary will re-listen to that section and report back to the Board, and the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Palm-Abramoff, seconded by Board Member Hale, to table the minutes until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Presentations

A. [19-0966](#) Peter D. Lear, CPA, CGMA, City Manager; Discussion on Tree Fund Allocations and Tree Regulation Enforcement

Mr. Lear reported that the total amount in the Tree Fund at the end of this year is \$1.3 million, cited things for which the funds can be used, arborist being paid 50% out of the Tree Fund, land will be purchased for tree preservation, education of public, and intent for tree preservation explained to obtain a perpetual tree bank.

Discussion ensued regarding Scrub Jays on Warm Mineral Springs land, a report detailing the Tree Fund breakdown, meeting the minimum canopy requirement, Tree Fund

to replace existing trees, a monthly or quarterly report regarding the Tree Fund revenues and expenditures, information available on View North Port on the City's website, and the role of the Beautification & Tree/Scenic Highway Committee is focused on U.S. 41.

Mr. Lear noted tree-related issues to be addressed during tomorrow's Commission meeting, invited Board Members to attend, and penalties for lot clearing.

Mr. Jayroe and Mr. Raducci spoke to tree regulations and enforcement, intent of House Bill 1159, mitigation for heritage trees, verifying every tree on every lot, inspections after trees were removed, code enforcement penalties after the fact, clear cutting, changes in how fines are assessed, giving owners due process, fines process, and cutting trees from vacant lots vs. clearing underbrush.

Ms. Wong spoke to storm water drainage, retention pond maintenance, mitigation fees, and the 30% canopy requirement.

Mr. Raducci spoke to the goal of saving 35% canopy City-wide, contacting Public Works Community Outreach Coordinator Michael Fear for help in educating the public, and difficulty maintaining a 35% tree canopy with septic fields.

There was a consensus to direct staff to contact Michael Fear to help distribute information on social media regarding tree removal regulations.

7. New Business

A. [19-0694](#)

ULDC Environmental Chapters Review

Mr. Jayroe stated he will forward the Board's current suggested Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) changes to each Member.

Ms. Wong suggested incorporating the Manatee Protection Zone portion of Chapter 9 into Chapter 49 -- Wetland Regulations, expanding Chapter 49 to include Wetland and Wildlife Regulations, and spoke to conservation restricted zones in Chapter 9, wastewater treatment systems allowable along environmentally sensitive zones, Board's recommendations including signs on restricted areas, adding 90-day re-survey for gopher tortoises prior to land clearing, adding requirement for Scrub Jay surveys between March and October for properties on City's Scrub Jay map, adding a wildlife study to Chapter 14-23, changing Administrative Code 17-3 to 62-330, the voluntary vegetative buffer zones around ponds shall remain a recommendation not a requirement, and agreed a chapter is needed in the ULDC regarding wildlife habitat.

Ms. Wong spoke to testing for impaired water bodies, will distribute last year's water monitoring report, fresh water/tidal water locations where tests are monitored, Mosaic Mining's future project expanding to the west impinging on the Big Slough watershed, and quarterly water sampling in and near North Port in anticipation of Mosaic's expansion.

After a concern was expressed regarding development in the southwest quadrant of I-75 and Sumter Boulevard, clarification was provided that any future development must abide by all regulatory requirements.

Ms. Wong announced a Commission Workshop is scheduled on October 3, 2019 regarding acquiring properties along I-75 and Myakkahatchee Creek that are prone to flooding.

There was a consensus to move Manatee Protection Regulations from ULDC

Chapter 9 into Chapter 49.

- B. [19-0841](#) Future Land Use Map Memorandum From Neighborhood Development Services

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

- C. [19-0842](#) Discussion of other Governments' Departments of Natural Resources

Discussion ensued regarding a recommendation to the Commission that would create a independent Natural Resources Department and making Arborists their own department.

Ms. Wong spoke to City's strict adherence to environmental regulations.

It was noted that the natural resource issue is so encompassing as to compel total focus instead of a broad overall approach.

It was suggested to review Chapter 49 for discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Wong requested support for language in ULDC Chapter 18-10 (D) 1 and 2, addressing sustainable and low impact development designs.

It was suggested to schedule a future discussion regarding solar power/panels.

8. Updates

- A. [19-0579](#) Update on Past Board Directives

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

- B. [19-0580](#) Environmentally Related Commission Agenda Items

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

9. Future Agenda Items

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Chair Driest adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

By: _____
Edie Driest., Chair

Minutes approved at the Environmental Advisory Board Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2019.

