



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Final Environmental Advisory Board

---

Monday, October 7, 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. Roll Call

**Present** 5 - Chair Edie Driest, Board Member Carolann Palm-Abramoff, Board Member Allain Hale, Board Member Verna Blaine, and Board Member Lora Ross

**Absent** 1 - Lauri Fern

### Also Present:

Engineering Division Manager Gerry Traverso, and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

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

### 4. Public Comment

Justin Tanner: concerns regarding aquatic life in North Port canals and contaminated pipes.

Mr. Traverso stated he will look into it and for him to also contact Stormwater Manager Elizabeth Wong.

Jamie Scott: use of weed killer on Hillsborough Boulevard.

Mr. Traverso spoke to herbicide use in North Port.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

- A. [19-1125](#) Approval of Minutes for the September 9, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting.

*A motion was made by Board Member Palm-Abramoff, seconded by Board Member Hale, to approve Minutes for the September 9, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

- B. [19-0909](#) Approval of Minutes for the August 5, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board.

*A motion was made by Board Member Palm-Abramoff, seconded by Board Member Blaine, to approve the Minutes for the August 5, 2019 Environmental Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

### 6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## 7. New Business

### A. [19-0694](#) ULDC Environmental Chapters Review

Discussion ensued with the following recommendations:

Chapter 49-2 Findings.

Using a standardized definition of "wetlands" from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

***There was a consensus to recommend adding a definition for wetlands.***

Chapter 57

Section 57-7 Regulated activities within the Myakka River Protection Zone.

57-7(A)(3) Adding specific language regarding sewer restrictions, matching this definition to the definition in Chapter 9-12(A)(6)(c) regarding a replacement on-site sewage disposal system and Chapter 61 (as referenced in Chapter 9-12).

***There was a consensus to recommend being clear and consistent in language for chapters that reference alternative sewage.***

57-7 (B)(7) Silviculture

After a discussion to prohibit silviculture (mulch) harvesting of any Florida endemic trees, it was determined to be addressed sufficiently in the next paragraph (8) and in Tree Regulations.

57-10(A)(1) Variances

Discussion ensued regarding paragraph (1)(b) adding "as long as he has exhausted all options available to him" clarifying that there may be other uses of the property. No recommendation was made.

It was noted that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is sponsoring a Workshop to discuss gopher tortoise protection measures, and the Board's Joint Meeting with the Commission is scheduled for December.

Chapter 14

Section 14-3 (B) Earthmoving/dredging

Mr. Traverso explained "closure plan benefit" as found in paragraph (B).

14-4 Protecting natural features

It was determined that the phrase "All earthmoving, dredging and/or filling shall be activities designed to maximize preservation of natural features" is too broad.

***There was a consensus to recommend including Section 14-4 as part of a permit application section to ensure that the natural features are preserved and how that will be accomplished.***

Section 14-5 Flood hazards

It was recommended that United Land Development Code (ULDC) chapters referenced need to be expanded or at least footnoted.

***There was a consensus to recommend adding actual language referenced when ULDC Chapters 9, 18 and 17 are merely cited within Section 14-5.***

Section 14-7(C) Land clearing debris.

Mr. Traverso clarified the paragraph pertains to large developments, not single family lots.

Section 14-8(D)(11) and (12) Shoreline habitat and vegetated buffers

After a concern, it was noted that last meeting Ms. Wong described this as rough buffers along waterways or retention ponds.

Section 14-14 Stormwater discharge

Following a brief discussion, Board Members agreed this should remain in the ULDC.

Section 14-10 Enforcement

It was noted that the reference to Chapter 17 cites flood damage prevention regulations.

Section 14-19(H) An environment report

It was recommended to add "and/or US Fish and Wildlife Service" to the last sentence.

***There was a consensus recommend that 14-19(H) adding "and/or US Fish and Wildlife Service." at the end of the last sentence in the paragraph.***

Section 14-19(H) continued

Discussion ensued regarding the length of a survey.

***There was a consensus to recommend that Section 14-19(H) should coincide with the most recent recommendations of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.***

***There was a consensus to recommend that timeframes for surveys of wildlife be consistent throughout City Codes with the recommendations from the two governing commissions.***

Section 14-19(H)(1) Structural and vegetative buffers.

It was recommended to change from may to shall.

***There was a consensus to recommend deleting "may" so that subparagraph (1) states: Structural and vegetative buffers shall be required as necessary to prevent adverse visual, noise, vibration, dust, and safety impacts between potentially incompatible land uses.***

Section 14-19(H)(1) continued

Discussion ensued regarding adding "trespassing".

Mr. Traverso spoke to difficulty in setting up and taking down barriers on a daily basis, intent is for commercial development during the construction phase, and enforcement of trespassing should be addressed in other areas of the Code.

Board Member Palm-Abramoff dissented to any trespassing language because it is covered by other laws and does not belong under environmental regulations.

***There was a consensus to recommend adding "to prevent trespassing" to the subparagraph.***

Section 14-19(P) Best management practices

Mr. Traverso spoke to examples of management practices during construction and contractors' training in best practices prior to commencement of any project except for residential lots.

Chapter 18

Section 18-7(D)(1)(i) Littoral zone planting

Mr. Traverso explained littoral zones (ponds) and City mandatory inspections and monitoring.

***There was a consensus to recommend inserting "as required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).***

Section 18-10(B)(3) Proposed stormwater management

Mr. Traverso explained details for attenuating and treating stormwater ponds.

***There was a consensus to recommend adding "and shall be provided pursuant to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) requirements."***

Section 18-10(B)(8) Purpose of public safety

Discussion ensued but no recommendation was offered.

Section 18-10(B)(13) Six-foot vegetated buffer

It was noted that Sarasota County mandates a wide buffer.

***There was a consensus to recommend making this a requirement, especially if the City of Sarasota or Sarasota County has it stipulated or required.***

Section 18-10(B)(18) Stormwater discharge facilities

It was noted that this section is a repeat from a previous chapter.

Section 18-10(B)(20)(f) Supplemental plantings

Mr. Traverso spoke to City requirements for additional plantings if survival falls below 85%.

Section 18-10(B)(20)(h) Overgrowth in littoral zones

It was recommended to add a paragraph addressing vegetation that sinks to bottom also removed.

***There was a consensus to recommend adding another paragraph to address any time the herbicide is sprayed and that the dying vegetation is removed out of water bodies before it sinks to the bottom.***

Section 18-10(D) Sustainable development and low impact

It was recommended to support Ms. Wong's requirements as found in subparagraphs (1) and (2).

***There was a consensus that the Environmental Advisory Board support Section 18-10(D)(1) and (2).***

- 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

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

- D. [19-1122](#)** Discussion on Solar Power/Panels

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

## 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 not discussed.

## 10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 11. Adjournment

Chair Driest adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edie Driest  
Chair

Minutes were approved on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.