



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, July 10, 2023

5:30 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 6 - Chair Holland, Vice Chair English, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Robinson, Board Member Hall and Board Member Eik

Also Present:

Environmental Technician Jeremy Rogus, Recording Secretary Matthew Powell, and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Trish Sturgess

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. [23-1017](#) Approval of the June 5, 2023 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Holland announced the item and requested a motion.

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

6. Presentations

- A. [23-0927](#) Presentation from Parks and Recreation Department Personnel regarding native planting and pollinator plantings at City Parks and Recreation sites.

Vice Chair Holland announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess provided a presentation including parks, pollinator species, projects, website overview, data applications, and goals.

Discussion took place regarding Hope Park, pollinator applications, wildlife effected, inclusion of existing parks, potential plantings, cost requirements, pesticides, donation

process, potential collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, timeline, watering requirements and potential solutions, park size, seeds, tree fund money usage, pollination stations, reducing mowing, Natural Resources Division, community involvement, programs and events, and habitat restoration.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. [23-0466](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Finalizing the Board's Annual Report to the Commission (Jeremy Rogus)

Vice Chair Holland announced the item.

Discussion took place regarding priorities, timeline requirements, review process, postponing discussion, and potential for a special meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member English, to postpone Item No. 23-0466 to the August 7, 2023 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

- B. [23-0742](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Implementation of Additional Community Gardens (Lola Robinson)

Vice Chair Holland announced the item.

Board Member Robinson spoke to the item regarding proposal, funding, tree fund usage, benefits to community, potential locations, and recommendations.

Discussion took place regarding transmitting a memorandum to City Commission, proposal process, recommendations, survey options, existing community gardens, Morgan Family Community Center (MFCC), Parks and Recreation role, potential locations, costs and funding, donations, volunteers, goals, community garden definition, community involvement, creating a list of next steps, and assigning roles.

A motion was made by Board Member Hall, seconded by Board Member Therrien, to direct Board Member English to contact City Parks and Recreation in regards to creating a survey to receive community input for potential community gardens. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

8. New Business

- A. [23-1089](#) Discussion and Possible Action regarding new recommendations or advisements to City Commission pertaining to preserving and promoting wildlife, habitat protection, trees, the City's natural and environmental resources, tree planting, and/or beautification of public spaces.

Vice Chair Holland announced the item.

Discussion took place regarding tree fund money usage, Natural Resources Division, vehicle purchases, transmitting a memorandum to City Commission, and park preservation.

A motion was made by Board Member Hall, seconded by Board Member Therrian, to direct Board Member English to draft a memorandum relating to the preservation of City owned/natural area parks to be presented at the August 7, 2023 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a

voice vote.

A motion was made by Board Member Hall, seconded by Board Member Eik, to host a tree fund Workshop Meeting with the new Natural Resources Manager when the position is filled. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

[23-1112](#)

Discussion and Possible Action regarding selection of primary and secondary EAB members to attend upcoming Warm Mineral Springs Project (WMSP) community engagement meetings on behalf of the EAB.

Vice Chair Holland announced the item.

Mr. Rogus spoke to Board representation requirement.

Discussion took place regarding availability, meeting type, options, commitment requirements, recommendations, and community engagement.

A motion was made by Board Member Hall, seconded by Board Member English, to appoint Board Member Therrien as the primary representative and Board Member Eik as the alternate representative. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

B. [23-1088](#)

Election of Chair

Vice Chair Holland announced the item.

Discussion took place regarding availability.

Board Member English nominated Vice Chair Holland as Chair. Board Member Eik seconded the nomination. The nomination of Vice Chair Holland as Chair carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Board Member English nominated Board Member Hall as Vice Chair. Board Member Hall declined the nomination.

Board Member Therrien nominated Board Member English as Vice Chair. Board Member Eik seconded the nomination. The nomination of Board Member English as Vice Chair carried unanimously on a voice vote.

9. Future Agenda Items

No additional topics were added to the future agenda items.

Board Member Eik provided introductions and spoke to reasons for joining the Board.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Chair Holland adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

By: _____
Honey "Desiree" Holland, Chair