



Meeting Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, August 7, 2023

5:30 PM

City Hall Room 244

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Holland, Vice Chair English, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Robinson and Board Member Eik

Absent 1 - Board Member Hall

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

Virginia Lewis: expressed concern for wildlife and environmental preservation.

5. Approval of Minutes

- A. [23-1146](#) Approval of the July 10, 2023 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Vice Chair English, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Holland, Vice Chair English, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Robinson and Board Member Eik

Absent: 1 - Board Member Hall

6. Presentation

- A. [23-1166](#) Sarasota County Community Gardens (Mindy Hanak)

Chair Holland announced the item.

Mindy Hanak, Sarasota County Community Gardens, provided a presentation including introductions, garden program, location, membership, plantings, resources, types, harvests, food security statistics, intent, gardening benefits, member feedback, steps for implementation, funding, tips, examples, and contact information.

Discussion took place regarding City versus County designation, volunteer role, pest control, community benefits, membership fees, mulch acquisition, compost collection, survey options, maintenance requirements, communication efforts, Board role, location, weather effects, and youth programs.

Public comment:

Amber Clayton: spoke to micro-forest benefits.

7. Unfinished Business

A. [23-0927](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Native and Pollinator Plantings at City Parks and Recreation Sites (Parks and Recreation)

Chair Holland announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess introduced the item.

Paul Jackomin, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, spoke to coordination efforts and pollinators.

Discussion took place regarding Board coordination and representation, educational efforts, signage, maintenance requirements, donations, volunteer efforts, Environmental Conservancy of North Port, gopher tortoise preservation, plantings, wildlife attraction, seed utilization, Hope Park, and funding.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Vice Chair English, to direct Chair Holland to attend the August 17, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting as a representative of the Environmental Advisory Board to discuss collaboration efforts. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Holland, Vice Chair English, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Robinson and Board Member Eik

Absent: 1 - Board Member Hall

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

Chair Holland announced the item and spoke to the draft report.

Discussion took place regarding inclusion of Board goals, accomplishments, and timeline.

A motion was made by Board Member Eik, seconded by Vice Chair English, to finalize and present the Environmental Advisory Board Annual Report to City Commission including an attachment with Board goals and accomplishments. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Holland, Vice Chair English, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Robinson and Board Member Eik

Absent: 1 - Board Member Hall

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

Chair Holland announced the item.

Discussion took place regarding Sarasota County Community Gardens presentation, survey requirement, presenting survey results to Commission, recommendations, micro-forests, zoning and development process, and wildlife preservation.

D. [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 Beautification of Public Spaces

Chair Holland announced the item.

Discussion took place regarding geographic information system (GIS) usage, gopher tortoise tracking and verification process, property survey process, volunteer efforts, Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) environmental survey criteria and process, and global positioning system (GPS) usage.

A motion was made by Board Member Therrien, seconded by Board Member Eik, to discuss the Unified Land Development Code environmental survey criteria and process at the next Environmental Advisory Board Meeting. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Holland, Vice Chair English, Board Member Therrien, Board Member Robinson and Board Member Eik

Absent: 1 - Board Member Hall

8. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Rogus spoke to Board powers and duties.

9. Public Comment

Kim Peeler: expressed support for environmental preservation relating to new development.

Discussion took place regarding new development green space requirement and natural area parkland acreage.

There was consensus to direct Board Member Eik to draft a memorandum advising City Commission to increase the green space requirement for new development applications.

Discussion continued regarding percentage.

10. Adjournment

Chair Holland adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

By: _____
Honey "Desiree" Holland, Chair