

**WEST PALM BEACH  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 1, 2016  
Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Lew Crampton  
Stewart Bosley  
Raul Mejia  
Jack Rice

**Staff and Commissioners Present:**

Penni Redford  
Lauren Thead  
Elaine Christian  
Suzanne Schluter

**Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda**

- Meeting was called to order at 4:13 PM.
- Meeting minutes for June 7 and August 2, were approved unanimously.

**New Business**

- Landscape Code – Ray Caranci, Landscape Planner
  - Ray Caranci gave a presentation on recent changes to the Landscape Code (Presentation available at <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>)
  - Main Points:
    - Ray has a background in horticulture and landscape and started working at the City about 1 ½ years ago. His first task was to look at the code. The whole code had not been updated for a long time, and there were some duplications and things that didn't match up as well as items that don't really belong in the landscape code. Ray enlisted Penni's help to bring in sustainability initiatives/goals as well. Ray met with local landscape architects and planning staff to bring make sure the code reflects the intent and intent is reflected in the code.
    - The proposed changes include: Florida Friendly plant point requirements increased; increased ratio when replacing shade trees with palm trees (3:1) except for large palms; maintain permeable land; add littoral requirements; protect and expand tree canopy; and bring City property landscapes under the same regulations.
    - We expect the revised code to go to Commission on January 3.
    - Currently single family homes can use artificial turf in the backyard, but not the front. There have been a couple of cases lately where residents have put in artificial turf in violation of the code. This is probably an issue that will be talked about more and we could talk about in more depth at a later meeting. We will send out the current code.
- New STAR Policies – Lauren Thead
  - We are working on a few policies that can be signed by the Mayor, do not have to go to Commission and that will assist in embedding greenhouse gas emissions reductions into the way we do day to day work and make choices.
  - STAR was the impetus. We submitted our STAR application and recently received back their comments and these policies are a way to get back some of those points that they weren't yet ready to award us.

- The three policies we're working on are: Climate and Resiliency, Landscape, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The landscape policy includes: city properties following same rules, and invasive plants cannot be used and any found must be removed. The climate and energy policy includes considering climate change impacts when making purchases, replacing vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles among other things. The IPM policy includes reducing pesticides overall and prohibiting some pesticides such as neonics. We will send out copies of these policies.
- These policies do not have a timeline, the related Standard Operating Procedures will have time lines in them.
- Meeting Schedule and RSVP – October - September
  - The members agreed to continue with a meeting every other month, except for during the summer, so the 2017 meetings will be as follows: February, April, June, September, October, and December. A conference call will be created each meeting (call in number 561-822-1545).

### Old Business

- Sustainability Office Updates – Penni Redford/Lauren Thead/Elaine Christian
  - STAR – We will be re-submitting by next Tuesday and they have will have 30 days to tabulate the points and let us know what rating we achieved.
  - Rain Barrel Workshops – Five workshops were originally scheduled this fall and one was added for Dec 10. We've given away about 55 rain barrels and have had many compliments about the program.
  - Green My School – Working with schools located in West Palm Beach to achieve the Green School Recognition offered by FAU Pine Jog.
  - Green Business Challenge Kick-Off will be on November 14. West Palm Beach businesses are invited to come out and learn how they can save money by reducing energy and water use and making other green choices. This is a friendly competition. Please help get the word out about the Kick-Off. Bringing other businesses into the challenge also gives points for the business who recruits them.
  - National League of Cities Training Program – the National League of Cities is giving the City a grant of \$10K and assistance with a training, branding and marketing campaign for 2050 net zero, resilient 2050, STAR, etc.
  - Lauren has been promoted and therefore we have two positions open that will be posted soon. One will opening will be to fill Lauren's position and the other is a new position, a green infrastructure position that will take over our 10,000 trees program, oversee some of the bio-swale maintenance and begin some new programs.
  - A Soofa bench has been installed in Jose Marti park. This is a bench with a solar panel where one can sit and recharge electronic devices. It also counts people who pass by with an electronic handshake with their device, so we will be able to see if the bench helps to activate this area.
  - FPL will be giving the City two solar trees, each providing about 3kw of solar energy. They will be installed in early 2017. This is separate from a large design project that is currently in the works for the Waterfront called Shore to Core. Penni is a jurist on that project and

the decision of which of two design groups to get the job will be decided by March. There is a strong sustainability and resiliency component to this project: the redesign of the old banyan garage into a multifunction building.

#### **Future Meetings**

- Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 4-5:30 PM, Mayor's Board Room

#### **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.