

**WEST PALM BEACH
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 7, 2017
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

Lew Crampton
Stewart Bosley – call-in
Chanda Fuller
Jennifer Gore
Raul Mejia – call-in
Mark Stempler

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Ryan
Penni Redford
Lauren Thead
Elaine Christian
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
- Meeting minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

Opening Remarks

- Patti and Lien, students in an on-line course attended the meeting via phone.
- Lew Crampton congratulated the City for its 4 STAR rating
- Penni Redford passed around postcards and magnets regarding the 4 STAR certification and mentioned that street signs and plaques will be put up around the City to let people know about the accomplishment. Additionally a pull-up banner is available for the Committee members to use if they should want to borrow it for any meeting, etc.
- Jennifer Gore mentioned that artist Anita Glesta got in touch with her and might be interested and available to do some artwork in the City. Penni and Jennifer will try to connect with her and also with the Art in Public Places Committee as there might be some funding there.
- Stewart Bosley stated that an RFP went out for a brownfield cleanup at Henrietta Bridge Farm and a well will be drilled on the property very soon.
- Jennifer mentioned that property across from Good Samaritan Hospital was sold. Paula Ryan mentioned that the City Commission tasked the Planning Department to check on the zoning for this area at a recent commission meeting.

New Business

- Artificial Turf – Ray Caranci, Landscape Planner
 - Over the past year the issue of artificial turf has come up as residents have installed artificial turf without permits. An amendment to the landscape code was done in 2012 regarding artificial turf in order to give it classification and definition of where it can be used. Current code does not allow artificial turf at all in residential zoning districts, but does allow it in some areas such as non-city owned playing fields, rooftop terraces, and as part of non-residential development. Also installation and repair are addressed. These

changes were done after the normal process of including staff, Planning Board, and Commission input and review and final approval by the Commission.

- The purpose today is to get input from the Committee. There will be a Commission workshop on February 21 on this issue.
- Commissioner Ryan mentioned that this issue is largely here because she was receiving feedback from the community. Some residents had installed artificial turf without a permit. More and more started calling about it, and one person has a child who is highly allergic to grass and wants to install it in the backyard around the pool. From what I've seen and heard and researched, artificial turf has been much improved since 2012, it is no longer impermeable, and has some benefits such as not requiring chemicals and water to maintain. Some of these residents are on the Intracoastal waterway and therefore believe that the elimination of chemicals is very beneficial.
- Penni Redford mentioned that the cons of artificial turf are: made of virgin plastic, petroleum based product, can leach toxins, off gassing, older artificial turf had a lead content, heat issue especially with large expanses. It does require maintenance, especially if there are animals using the space. After some time the soil underneath becomes sterile and it becomes very difficult to plant plants there. When its useful life is over, it ends up in the landfill. In addition, there are other living ground cover options that could be used instead of grass; the issue does not have to be grass or artificial turf.
- The Sustainability Advisory Committee agreed to review information from the 2012 decision, the current code, and information from professionals that the City can bring before them at the next meeting to assist and give input on this issue.
- Branding 2050 Net Zero – Penni Redford
 - The Sustainability Office is working with a marketing firm to assist in packaging and PR for our many goals and initiatives, such as our 4-STAR Certification and ongoing goals with STAR Communities, net zero by 2050 goal, Energy Secure Cities – moving our fleet away from petroleum fuels, US DOE Better Buildings Challenge, etc. The consultant has come up with some titles and tag lines, and we'd like your input on these. Visuals will be developed once the title and tag line are decided.
 - An email will be sent out with the options and please reply as soon as possible with your input/ideas. During the meeting ideas/input included:
 - West Palm Beach 2050: Planning Today, Ensuring Tomorrow
 - It should have the word "sustainability" in it.
 - West Palm Life (or Promise): Living Sustainably for Today and Tomorrow
 - West Palm should be in it.
 - Sustain WPB or Sustain West Palm Beach
 - Forward West Palm Beach: Local Initiatives

Old Business

- National League of Cities Leadership in Community Resilience Workshop – Lauren Thead
 - As discussed in the last meeting, the City is receiving funding from the National League of Cities and we are setting up a workshop for the public leaders. Staff from STAR Communities will facilitate the charrette. This will be a good opportunity to engage the community and City leadership and come up with some overall goals and priorities. This

charrette promises to be very collaborative and with concrete deliverables. City government carbon emissions are only 3% of total community emissions, so the community needs to be involved in reduction goals.

- The workshop will be held April 11, 12 OR 13 and will probably be approximately 8:30AM – 2 PM.
- The ideal number of participants will be around 80. Community and neighborhood leaders, City department directors, nonprofit leaders who are interested should be involved. More information will be sent out when more details are known. If you know of individuals who should be involved, please let us know.
- Sustainability Office Updates – Penni Redford/Lauren Thead/Elaine Christian
 - Green Business Challenge: Still recruiting businesses. Businesses can receive up to 850 extra points by recruiting other businesses. The first workshop was this past month and the next one will be Feb. 22. FPL will be speaking about energy efficiency at this workshop.
 - e4 Home at the Palm Beach Home Show was January 27-29 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.
 - We are starting talking with the Science Center on the e4 Life | Green, Health & Wellness Expo that will be July 8.
 - March is Florida bike month and we will be doing our Bike to Work Week, March 27-31, with the WPB Transportation Management Initiative and others culminating in Bike to Work Day on March 31 with a small event at City Hall in the morning for bike commuters.
 - A group of City staff has been talking about a Parking Cash Out program and want to start with a pilot program that will help get information out there about alternative forms of transit.
 - County Metropolitan Planning Organization will be doing a commuter challenge in May this year.
 - Freshfest is this coming weekend at the Meyer Amphitheater, we will be giving away 300 trees as part of our 10,000 Trees in 10 Years program.
 - Also part of the 10,000 Trees Program: 250 trees were given away at the GreenMarket on January 21, for Florida Arbor Day.
 - Our new Communications Director, Kathleen Walter is doing a great job getting more exposure through social media.
 - Two new interns came on board last week. They each can work up to 19 hours a week. Interviews were held recently for the green infrastructure coordinator position and an offer will be made.
 - WaterSmart will be starting a pilot for commercial and multifamily home water reports starting this month.
 - We partnered with the Florida Native Plant Society and have some handouts about native plants.

Other

- Commissioner Ryan mentioned that Palm Beach County received a grant and will be installing islands in the Intracoastal Waterway throughout of Palm Beach County. Some of them will be in the City, in the El Cid neighborhood, and Commissioner Ryan will be

facilitating a meeting regarding this on March 30 at 6 PM in the Flagler Gallery. The islands are constructed with riprap and then planted with aquatic plants. Oysters and birds soon inhabit the areas. South Cove is a project of this type.

Future Meetings

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

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.