

**WEST PALM BEACH**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 13, 2017**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Lew Crampton  
Stewart Bosley  
Chanda Fuller  
Jack Rice  
Mark Stempler

**Staff and Commissioners Present:**

Mayor Muoio  
Commissioner Ryan  
Penni Redford  
Lauren Thead  
Elaine Christian  
Michael Rittenhouse  
Suzanne Schluter

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

- Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
- *Chanda Fuller made motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 4, 2017 meeting. Mark Stempler seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

**Opening Remarks**

- The Sustainability Office has three new interns, two that will be with us only for the summer and one that will stay on in the fall: Nick Van Zee, Sam Meyerson, and Kenna Schott.
- Penni Redford mentioned that Mayor Muoio is a member or in support of several groups. She was one of the first 61 “Climate Mayors”, to say that they will continue efforts towards sustainability and renewables despite the declaration that the U.S. will exit the Paris Accord. She also signed a City proclamation to that effect that we are committed along with a multitude of cities to make good on our efforts to comply with the Paris Accord. Currently there are 298 mayors, representing over 61,000,000 people in the U.S. that have signed on.

**Old Business**

- Landscape Code and Artificial Turf
  - Current City Code - Ray Caranci, City Landscape Planner
    - Ray Caranci reiterated the relevant parts of the current code and mentioned possible main points for the SAC to consider (available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>):
      - Whether to remove the total restriction on residential zoning to allow for artificial turf. In single family/duplex settings this would allow it to be used in the rear and side yards as long as it would not be visible from the public thoroughfare. Front yard requires landscaped area. Whether artificial turf could be used for impervious area if not visible. (See attachment for summary of single family landscape requirements).
      - Whether or not to allow it to be installed anywhere in multifamily residential zoning districts, subject to the restrictions on visibility from the public

thoroughfare. This would be any residential zoning allowing more than three units per acre.

- If allowed in residential, consider adding a different set of standards for artificial turf for residential use, as the installation, materials and pervious classification are different from sports/commercial turf. Commercial standards need to be updated in the next code revision including material data sheet and requiring certification by landscape architect to meet technical requirements.
  - Whether to require documentation on the product including any requirement for a minimum percentage using recycled materials, and what minimum percentage is recyclable material.
- o Discussion including public comments:
- There are situations where it is difficult to grow anything and in some areas it may be appropriate to allow small installations of artificial turf, with the burden on the homeowner to prove it is needed.
  - Current small scale residential installations are not the same as have been put on playing fields in the past, and do have much greater permeability, still minimum requirements should be decided upon.
  - There are benefits and consequences of using artificial turf. Maybe there are renewable energy certificates to offset the carbon, or other ways to offset the negative consequences.
  - It is plastic, it could be leaching.
  - The parking code also has requirements for the front setback, which affect this. There are other alternatives to grass for the front yard, groundcovers, etc.
  - Technical specifications, including percentage of recycled material and recyclability, as well as permeability requirements, can be put in a design manual that can be updated as the market changes.
  - A landscape architect should make sure installations meet requirements, by way of a letter of certification and perhaps MSDS or similar documents.
  - When preparing a design manual with technical specifications and requirements, it may be beneficial to look at what other cities have done as well as check industry standards.
- o *Chanda Fuller made a motion, seconded by Mark Stempler, and to which all were in agreement: to make a recommendation to Mayor Muoio to consider amending the landscape code to allow artificial turf in single family and multi-family residentially zoned areas, with the following conditions:*
- *the artificial turf be allowed only in side and back yards that are not visible from the public thoroughfare, including areas where impervious structures are allowed;*
  - *the artificial turf must follow established standards and specifications, including a minimum percentage of recycled materials and recyclability at end of life which will be defined in a design manual, (under development now as part of the landscape code revisions);*
  - *after permit approval which will require certification by a Florida registered landscape architect that standards and specifications are met; and*

- *a GHG offset (required or voluntary to be determined) should be considered to mitigate the use of any petroleum product materials used in the artificial turf manufacturing and for disposal.*
- Please RSVP for meetings; meetings will be rescheduled if we do not have a quorum at least 24 hours before scheduled meeting.
- Sustainability Office Updates – Penni Redford
  - An insert is going out in the utility bills throughout the month of June with information on the following programs:
    - Residential PACE program – PACE webpage has been updated
    - Toilet voucher program – about 400 vouchers have been awarded so far
    - E4 Life | Green, Health & Wellness Expo – July 8 at the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium
    - STAR Communities 4-STAR Rating

### New Business

- SolSmart – Lauren Thead
  - This is a U.S. DOE SunShot Initiative that provides a designation level with respect to the ease of obtaining solar in the locality. The City is working towards a gold level designation. We are partnering with Palm Beach County, Lake Worth, Lantana, and Delray Beach, by sharing a SolSmart advisor who will be attributed to our group for six months starting in August.
- FL SUN – Solar Coops – Penni Redford
  - This is a program promoted by the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Club, among others. It is a program to have potential purchasers of solar to create a coop, which will then put out a request for proposal for a large number of solar installations to solar installers. The group chooses a vendor and then each resident or business works individually with the vendor to make decisions on their installation if they choose to finalize one. Programs of this type have typically seen about a 30% reduction of price per installation compared to contacting a vendor individually. This program can help make inroads toward our community net zero goal.

### Future Meetings

- Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 4-5:30 PM, Mayor’s Board Room

### Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM.