

**WEST PALM BEACH**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 5, 2018**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Lew Crampton, Chair  
Elizabeth Badgett  
Stewart Bosley  
Polly Daugherty

**Staff and Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Ryan  
Penni Redford  
Elaine Christian  
Nicole Wolfe  
Scott Kelly

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

- Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
- *Stewart Bosley made a motion to approve the Meeting minutes from the April 3, 2018, meeting, Polly Daugherty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

**Opening Remarks**

- Lew mentioned that the solar tree installation in Howard Park was approved at Commission last night.

**New Business**

- Tree Planting Design – Ray Caranci, City Landscape Planner
  - Ray showed many photos of street tree plantings at some current city projects, showing how they are being done more sustainably. He also showed some private development installations and explained the streetscape requirements for downtown area developed in the downtown master plan. This plan was amended about one year ago, to increase the height of trees to 20 feet, installed every 30 feet, in tree grates if needed.
  - The code for artificial turf was recently amended. Artificial turf is now allowed on residential, single family properties, in the rear and side setbacks only and must not be viewable from any road or street. Pictures of appropriate installations were shown.
  - The trees by Brightline were installed using structural soil – rocks with soil/nutrients. This creates a shady pedestrian-friendly environment.
  - The 300-block reconstruction of Clematis Street is progress now using a suspended pavement system, also known as Silva Cells. This system allows the roots to grow into uncompacted soil areas. The same type of trees as at Brightline will be installed here.
  - Structural Soil Detail – small limestone rocks in mixture of clay and organic matter. Pictures of Gumbo Limbos in structural soil at Loftin Place were shown.
  - Genetic diversity in the planting is important.
  - The sidewalk on Okeechobee Blvd is being widened to increase pedestrian safety and shrubs and increased tree canopy is being added.

- Scott Kelly mentioned that there are some empty tree pits in the downtown area that do not have irrigation. We are sorting out who owns the irrigation and who is ultimately responsible for caring for trees in these areas before planting.
- Commissioner Ryan mentioned the \$1 million for trees that has been announced and is hoping to see the project planning and scheduling of this.
  - Scott pointed out that there will be several initiatives under this tree program and there will be an Engineering project manager and schedules that will be posted on the website. Some of the areas that will be included are: Evernia Street; Datura Street; Banyan Blvd; Tamarind Avenue.
  - Ray also indicated that there are some projects that are currently underway: Village Boulevard; Westward Park; Gateway Park; Connector Road by the Brightline.
- Meeting Schedule Discussion
  - The Committee was considering moving to quarterly meetings instead of every other month. The Sustainability Office could give updates through email as they come up (monthly or every other month).
    - Lew suggested switching to a quarterly meeting schedule. If it looks like projects are moving along and there are updates, then we could switch back to every other month. Commissioner Ryan suggested possibly suspending meetings for the summer.
    - No decision taken, Lew and Penni will discuss and notify the committee.

### Old Business

- Elaine updates
  - Green Schools Awards Ceremony was in May and the City awarded Cardinal Newman High School the \$500 Judges Choice West Palm Beach “Green My School” award. There was also a green student of the year; Aisha Jones Prettyman from Roosevelt Middle School which is a school in West Palm Beach. We have 9 green schools and we’re hoping to increase that next year.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Business Challenge was kicked off May 15. There are 22 businesses signed on so far. The first lunch and learn workshop will be June 12, Noon-1PM at Grandview Market.
  - E4 Life | Green, Health & Wellness Expo, July 14, 10am-4pm at the Science Center and Aquarium
  - There is a big straw-free movement currently, we are seeing more and more restaurants saying they are going straw-free. We partnered with Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center and their sustainable restaurant program that we’re tying into the Green Business Challenge this year. Loggerhead’s program was modified from Surfrider.
  - Rain barrel workshop this weekend.
- Commissioner Ryan
  - FL Crystals has been starting to make plates and other items from the left-over sugar cane fiber. The company is called Tellus products.
  - Penni mentioned that we are aware of this and starting to see how we can collaborate with them.
- CityStat - Nicole

- We are working to increase data visibility to the general public through the performance dashboard. The Sustainability office is keeping track of the capital improvement projects and making sure the groups are filling out the Sustainability Policy portion of the forms and taking sustainability into account on all capital improvement projects.
  - We will start quarterly tracking the amount of energy saved and carbon emissions reduced by the PACE programs.
  - Tesla Motors/Envirospark Energy EV Charging Station Project – Tesla’s funding is being diverted to production of Model 3 cars. Our car charging installation project will be on hold for at least a couple months.
- Summer Interns – Penni
    - Three college interns and one high school intern will be working in the Sustainability office over the summer. They will help with tree inventory and other individual projects.

### **Public Comments**

- The Solar trees installation was passed at Commission yesterday, June 4. The Commission doubled the number of live trees to be planted in the adjacent areas at Howard Park to 10 trees.
- Commissioner Ryan
  - The Dreher Park neighborhood association created a scholarship program and will be sending 8 kids from Conniston and Palmetto Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grades) to the science camp.
  - Although some found the process for getting the solar trees installed cumbersome, this is how the process works. The proposal went to many meetings and many people were able to have input and the final proposal that passed was a much better proposal.
  - There is an Orchid Program through Pine Jog Elementary school. They are growing all varieties and are trying to work with communities to get the orchids out, but it is expensive, though, they’ve recently gotten some funding. Maybe one of the sustainability interns could get involved with the program and get those out in the communities.

### **Future Meetings**

- Tuesday, September 4, 2018 4-5:30 PM, Mayor’s Board Room

### **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 PM.