

**WEST PALM BEACH**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 4, 2018**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Mark Stempler, Acting Chair  
Elizabeth Badgett  
Stewart Bosley  
Rod Braun  
Christopher Savery

**Staff and Commissioners Present:**

Penni Redford  
Elaine Christian  
Michael Rittenhouse  
Suzanne Schluter  
Nicole Wolf  
Farah Narette

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

- Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
- *Elizabeth Badgett made a motion to approve the Meeting minutes from the June 5, 2018, meeting, Stewart Bosley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

**Opening Remarks**

- Penni reported that Lew Crampton has resigned from the Committee as he was elected to the Council of the Town of Palm Beach and is not able to do both.
- Two new members were welcomed, and the current members and staff introduced themselves:
  - Christopher Savery – Lives in CityPlace and is passionate about the environment.
  - Rod Braun – Works at the Nature Conservancy, worked with the South Florida Water Management District on Everglades Restoration, stormwater, climate change issues and lives in the south end of the City.

**New Business**

- Straw Ban – Elaine Christian
  - Elaine Christian presented on the effects of marine debris, especially single-use plastics, and consideration for an ordinance to ban or limit single-use plastics. (Presentation available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>)
  - Discussion Points:
    - Many municipalities have started creating ordinances, WPB is looking at what has been done elsewhere and what worked and what did not.
    - Lessons to be learned: educational outreach, being transparent during the process and engaging the public will be important.
    - Restaurants will be contacted; many have already gone straw-free or to paper or biodegradable straws.

- On Earth Day Sustainability partnered with Loggerhead Marinelife Center in asking restaurants to go straw-free that day. About 20 participated, giving straws only upon request.
- The state of Florida has preempted municipalities from creating bans on plastic bags and Styrofoam. However, Miami Beach already has an ordinance approved that will go into effect if Coral Gables wins the lawsuit brought against them by the Florida Retail Federation for banning Styrofoam.
- The GreenMarket is going straw-free starting with the opening this year on October 6. We will be handing out metal straws that day at the GreenMarket.
- There will be a Green Business Challenge event that will be on single-use plastics.
- The Sustainability team visited the Tellus factory in the Glades. Tellus is making disposable plates, etc. from sugarcane fibers left after processing out the sugar. They are not quite ready to go on the market.
- Elaine is in close contact with the school district as they are also trying to move away from single-use plastics but have certain health mandates to consider. The school district is looking into sugarcane fiber plates as an option.
- Individual schools have gotten rid of Styrofoam. Conniston Middle School in WPB is one of those.
- We are going to put in a policy for the events on City grounds for straws, at least, and maybe all single-use plastics. This would include the parks as well.
- *Elizabeth Badgett made a motion to support the City moving as quickly as possible towards a ban of single-use plastics. Rod Braun seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

### Old Business

- Stormwater Master Plan Update – Liz Perez, Collective Water updates
  - Liz Perez presented on the Stormwater Master Plan. (Presentation available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>).
  - Main points and discussion:
    - The City is in year 2 of implementation. Staff now uses plan successfully to inform decision making.
    - The SAC assisted in the decision to raise the freeboard to 2 feet above the floodplain.
    - The City has just achieved a Class 5 CRS rating out of the effort of the Stormwater Master Plan. This will save constituents in the high-risk flood zone 25% on their flood insurance.
    - Low-Impact Development/Green infrastructure plans are another thing that has come out of the findings of the Stormwater Master Plan. Three of the most green/innovative plans dealing with bioswales are Datura Green Streets Project, Currie Park Green Streets, Gregory Road.
    - The City just applied for some FEMA grants for the City for coastal and tidal flooding and hardening the water plant for hurricanes.
    - There are some areas within the City where there are flooding issues, but the roads are county roads, so the City has little control. The City is constantly putting pressure on the County to upgrade these areas.

- Low Impact Development projects are not more expensive than traditional stormwater projects and the City wants to create a stormwater manual for projects promoting using these options higher up on their menu of options.
  - Stormwater Master Plan Update #1 is available to view here:  
[http://wpb.org/CMSPages/GetAmazonFile.aspx?path=%7E%5Cwpb\\_website%5Cmedia%5Cwpb\\_content%5Cnemeeting\\_jan14\\_2015\\_v3.pdf&hash=a0da74fea573d1dca1bf91eab1892f7a2b25c443580806aca065d96ab8d938a7](http://wpb.org/CMSPages/GetAmazonFile.aspx?path=%7E%5Cwpb_website%5Cmedia%5Cwpb_content%5Cnemeeting_jan14_2015_v3.pdf&hash=a0da74fea573d1dca1bf91eab1892f7a2b25c443580806aca065d96ab8d938a7)
- Sustainability Office Updates
  - King Tides –King Tides are coming, the highest tides will be in October, but September and November will be high as well. Suzanne will send out the tide chart.
  - Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment – This is an ongoing project to assess the vulnerabilities in the City and work on how resilience can be built in. There will be a workshop tomorrow with staff from many departments in the City.
  - Global Climate Action Summit, September 10-15 - Penni and the Mayor will be attending. This is an international summit. Mayor Muoio is a Climate Mayor, part of the “We Are Still In” movement; a signatory group of subnational government leaders, businesses, university leaders, faith groups, and investors, which began when the US federal government made the decision to pull out of the Paris Accord to commit to continue to work towards the goals set in that agreement.
  - The mobility study implementation is continuing. The 300 block of the Clematis street project is in progress currently, scheduled to be completed in October. Silva cells are being used here, a suspended pavement system that allows the tree roots to grow out under the pavement which increases the longevity of the trees.
  - WPB Trees
    - Last fall we received an Urban and Community Forest grant, sponsored by Agriculture and Community Services and the Florida Forest Service. It is being used to put together an Urban Tree Management Plan for the City. The consultant met with staff from many City departments last week to understand how they value trees, what they do when they have issues with trees and get their feedback to determine what areas need work. Our goal is to have a written plan which will be given to each department for them to follow when working with trees, on how they will be maintained, trimmed, improved, etc. Using tree plotter software, interns worked over the summer plotting trees on the map.
    - 10K Trees in 10 Years – This program started in 2015 and we have given out at least 1,000 trees each fiscal year since then. We gave away 35 trees at a recent event and have already met our 1,000-tree goal for this year. We are working on including more education when giving away the tree to ensure the trees are planted correctly.
    - \$1M Trees – The Mayor has set aside one million dollars for trees in the City. Some of these funds will be used for trees at Howard Park to compliment the solar tree installation. Additionally, there are empty tree grates in the downtown area and we are working toward getting trees installed here. Part of that work is making sure that irrigation is in place and verifying who will be responsible for tending to the trees. Sometimes the property owner is the responsible party and we need to coordinate with them.

- Rain barrel workshops – there is a workshop scheduled for September 5, at Coleman Park and Elaine is working on scheduling another.
- Drive Electric Week – September 15, 10am-2pm
  - We’ve partnered with the Palm Beach Zoo for Drive Electric Day. Many cars and people are scheduled to attend. It will be a great event for people to talk to other who drive electric vehicles.
- Green Business Challenge - The next Lunch and Learn will be at Paradelo Burgess Design Studio, 421 South Olive Ave, WPB on September 26. The topic will be plants. Another event, a Cruise and Learn is planned for October 9. Visit Palm Beach is taking people out on the Hakuna Matata and Loggerhead Marinelife Center staff will talk about single-use plastics. The number of participants in the challenge is up.
- High-Efficiency Toilet Program – The current program is wrapped up. We will be starting a new program around November.
- Green My School – School just started back up, but a few schools have already reached out. Westward Elementary wants to get going again, they had become a green school of promise but then lost their champion and didn’t continue the next year. Northboro and Belvedere Elementary schools are also interested.
- Better Buildings Summit – Nicole attended the summit in Cleveland, Ohio. We recommitted to our current goal of 15% buildings emissions reduction by 2025 (compared to 2014 levels).
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Tesla has donated 2 dual-port charging stations and we’re working with EnviroSpark Energy Solutions to get these, along with one dual-port universal charging station purchased by the parking department, installed in the Clematis garage to replace the ChargePoint stations which are not currently working. We expect this to take place within the next month or two.
- Solar – Advanced Green Technologies has proposed project for about 19 City properties. After reviewing we asked them to go back and try to optimize the solar potential. Each project requires its own engineering so doing multiple small projects does not give us a scale benefit, so likely only about half of the projects will be able to be realized, but at least one that is highly visible.
- Imagine a Day Without Water – October 10 – There will be educational exhibits going on at City Hall and Grassy Waters to bring awareness to the importance of clean water and viable water infrastructure.
- Commissioners, Mayor, and City staff had a great planning workshop on new 5-year strategic plan. The plan uses the STAR platform which support resilience. The new plan will be out shortly.

### Future Meetings

- Tuesday, October 2, 2018 4-5:30 PM, Mayor’s Board Room

### Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM.