

**WEST PALM BEACH  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 5, 2017  
Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Lew Crampton  
Chanda Fuller  
Jack Rice  
Mark Stempler

**Staff and Commissioners Present:**

Penni Redford  
Michael Rittenhouse

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

- Meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM.
- *Chanda Fuller made motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 17, 2017 meeting. Mark Stempler seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

**Opening Remarks**

- Lew welcomed everyone to the bimonthly (every other month) meeting and everyone was introduced. He explained that the Sustainability Advisory Committee (S.A.C.) advises the Mayor on laws, rules, and regulations as well as anything the City does which can impact the environment, conservation, or the aspects of quality of life. The S.A.C also testifies and advises members of the City Commission and meets regularly with leaders of various City departments.
- Polly Daughtry was introduced as a soon to be member of the S.A.C. She works for an architectural firm in town. She has been here for 4 years.

**Old Business**

- Support of Solar in the City- Penni Redford, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office of Sustainability
  - The Mayor has a net zero goal for greenhouse gas reduction by 2050 and also has a 100% renewable energy goal with the U.S Conference of Mayors.
  - PACE is no longer just in the City of West Palm Beach but also county wide now. It is a great program to keep in mind when considering solar energy.
  - The City of West Palm Beach has a SolSmart designation through the Department of Energy. The coordinator for the program works with 5 municipalities (West Palm Beach, Lantana, Lake Worth, Delray, and Palm Beach County) and the City of West Palm Beach has a bronze designation. We are aiming for gold.
  - Recently, building officials and planners met to discuss expediting the permit process for solar permitting across the board. West Palm Beach is on track to be first city in state to have one day solar permitting. Criteria will exist for a project to qualify for such a permit. Solar capabilities will not necessarily be a requirement for new construction but other municipalities are starting to require solar on new buildings.

## New Business

- FL SUN – Solar Coops – Diane Marks, League of Women Voters
  - Solar coops offer a solution for homeowners who may be interested in solar energy. It is no obligation to purchase and offer a great amount of information for education. As a group, the coop will select an installer to put solar panels on roof tops and this offers 20-30% savings reduction of price per installation compared to contacting a vendor individually. This is a program promoted by the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Club, among others. The company responsible for organizing the coop, FL Sun, can answer all types of questions dealing with the coop and installation. The coop will gather beginning in November 2017 and will remain as a group until February 2018. The first meeting for the group will occur at 10:30 a.m., November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at the Pine Jog Education Center.
  - Discussion:
    - Sponsors are requested to help promote the coop and disseminate information for the other information sessions. Other information sessions will be planned in the future and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 looks like a promising date. Rooms for 200 people will be reserved at each event.
    - There were about 9,000 homes with solar and this has increased to 13,000. Verbiage in the Florida Constitution specifies that the Utility needs to handle all things electrical. This has slowed the process of solar power becoming popular.
    - This coop can also go hand and hand with PACE, who will talk about financing at the meetings.
    - Florida has a statute that preempts local governments from telling home owners where they can and cannot put solar panels. Homeowners associations (HOA) are also not able to prevent homeowners from putting up panels. Getting HOA's onboard may be a good idea
    - The SAC supports FL SUN Solar Coops internally and will make recommendations to the Mayor.
- Ethics Training- Penni Redford, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office of Sustainability
  - All Committee members should do a refresher on their ethics training. It is a video online.
  - Please resend link to SAC members.
- Sustainability Office updates- Penni Redford, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office of Sustainability
  - The Office of Sustainability is working with FernLeaf Interactive and the University of North Carolina NEMAC to conduct a city-wide resilience assessment. This assessment will be focused on hazards and vulnerability. The first phase will scope climate threats and will use the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. The second phase will be an exposure analysis. The assessment will go hand and hand with the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan and will complement the City's Emergency Management Plan. Phase one will begin with a planning session and a couple of workshops (January and June). All are invited. Additional phases may be planned in the future to look at city and county plans

(mitigation plan, sustainability action plan, STAR plan, stormwater master plan, comprehensive plan, etc.). GIS and LiDAR will be influential in these later phases. We have been working to add a climate and resilience element to the City comp plan. There is a draft currently of this section but the resilience assessment will help shape this portion up.

- The Office of Sustainability is working with Plan-It Geo to conduct a landcover analysis and Tree Canopy Assessment. This work will complement the tree canopy improvement initiative in the city. The city will look at existing tree canopy and plan for future development. There will layers to this assessment: hardscape, heat island effect, socio-economic effects, health, and stormwater. Grassy Water preserve will be separated from the assessment.
- A small contract is in the works has been established to assess trees downtown. The Mayor Plans to commit 1 million dollars to trees. The goal is to identify locations to immediately begin planting trees. The work will look at where trees are currently or were in the past and need replaced. The work will begin in October.
- Work is beginning at the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> street and Tamarind Avenue to establish a new tree nursery/ holding area. Ground cloth and irrigation will place. Site was once an old pumping ops station.
- Electrify America was created out of came out of Volkswagen settlement. Their goal is build up infrastructure in U.S. to the tune of 2 billion dollars over 10 years. They have selected 16-17 areas throughout the U.S. including Miami Dade (West Palm Beach is included in this area) to invest in. They are considering installing DC fast chargers throughout the state along I-95 and installing multifamily charging stations/ charging stations at work places throughout the City of West Palm Beach. Phase one of investment will be 30 months.
- Lauren Thead has left the Office of Sustainability. Her position, Water and Energy Coordinator, is being advertised. Two intern positions are also open and advertised. The Office of Sustainability has filled an open Sustainability Coordinator Position internally. Nicole Wolfe will begin September 11.
- The City has decided to cancel the Drive Electric event at the Palm Beach Zoo Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, due to hurricane Irma.
- The next Rain Barrel workshop will take place on September 16<sup>th</sup>. There are many people signed up for this event.
- The sea-level workshop, hosted in part by the Florida Sea Grant and the City of West Palm Beach, will take place on September 21<sup>st</sup> and will focus on Law and Policy. It will take place at Gaines Park.
- The City Development Director, Chris Roog, has been working to establish Flagler Shore. It will consist of reducing driving along Flagler Drive down to two lanes make more room for bikers and pedestrians. It will open on October 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the Green Market and will go through March 2018.
- A community tree giveaway will take place at Howard Park on October 7<sup>th</sup> as part of a 4 neighborhood annual picnic. The city has been working to tailor the tree giveaways to be focused more on specific neighborhoods and this is an excellent time to make connections with several neighborhoods at once.

- In light of Hurricane Irma, please consider signing up for CodeRED or PBC Dart software for emergency notifications.

### **Future Meetings**

- Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 4-5:30 PM, Mayor's Board Room

### **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM.