

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

Members Present:

Lew Crampton
Chanda Fuller
Elizabeth Badgett
Dan Gittere
Stewart Bosley
Polly Daugherty

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Paula Ryan
Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter
Michael Rittenhouse
Elaine Christian
Nicole Wolfe

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 September 5, 2017 meeting. Stewart Bosley seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

Opening Remarks

- Lew welcomed everyone to the 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.
- Polly Daugherty has been sworn in. She works at the Glidden Spina architectural firm, specializing in sustainable design and resilience.
- Elizabeth Badgett is a new member but has not been sworn in yet, so is sitting in, but will not participate in voting. Elizabeth is a Grants Manager at the Urban Youth Impact, a philanthropic organization within the City.
- Paula Ryan stated that the City has embraced Sustainability as part of its regular work, and that she reports back to her fellow commissioners so that they are up to date with S.A.C. meeting proceedings.

Old Business

- Office of Sustainability Updates
 - The Office of Sustainability has been working to achieve a Gold SolSmart designation. We currently have a Bronze designation, and with the help of our SolSmart advisor, Jen Barenholtz, we hope to have the Gold soon. The Planning, Engineering, and Building Services departments have also been crucial in helping the City streamline the solar permitting process, which will allow for a one day “walk through” permit application, the first of its kind in the state of Florida (see New Business for a continued discussion).
 - The City is also helping to sponsor the Florida Solar United Neighbors (FLSUN) Solar Co-op program, which had its kickoff press conference on November 1st at the Pine Jog Education Center. There will be several informational meetings throughout Palm Beach

County in the coming months for residents to learn more about how to join a co-op. (Flyer available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>).

- The Sea-Level Rise Workshop, hosted in part by the Florida Sea Grant and the City of West Palm Beach, will take place on November 16, and will focus on Law and Policy. It will take place at Gaines Park.
- There is a Rain Barrel Workshop scheduled for November, at Howard Park.

New Business

- Landscape Plan Updates – Ray Caranci, City Landscape Planner
 - Updates focus on increasing tree coverage in new parking lot areas within the City in order to align the current code with the City’s vision of increasing its tree canopy. A 60% native plant minimum and remaining 40% Florida-friendly plant code enforcement for new developments will be reviewed by commission on December 4. Emphasis will be on live oaks in the Downtown area, since they are native and resilient in regards to hurricanes.
 - As City landscaping projects must have irrigation, this code would give more leeway for irrigation requirements and would be site specific.
 - Changes to the artificial turf code will be going to the planning board on November 21. One of the changes states that artificial turf cannot be seen from a public thoroughfare.
 - Paula Ryan asked about the Mango Promenade area and the fact that is a City-owned public path, yet artificial turf is being used in the area.
 - Lew Crampton asked if there was a device in the code to address the anomalies that arise, such as the Mango Promenade example.
 - Ray mentioned there is no concrete definition of “public thoroughfare” addressed in the code. The Zoning Board of Appeals can give variance for measurements or hardship, but there are no variances allowed from the landscape code.
 - The Planning Board will approve or request changes to the proposed code updates, and if approved they will go to commission in January for the first reading and then a second reading possibly in January again.
- Mobility Study – Uyen Dang, Engineer & Scott Kelly, Assistant City Administrator
 - Uyen Dang and Scott Kelly presented on the mobility study to address future and present mobility within the City. The emphasis is on transitioning to the more comprehensive approach of moving people from the current approach of moving cars. As transportation is the largest contributor to climate change, the presentation focused on recapturing more green space and making navigate through the city more manageable with less dependency on personal vehicles. (Presentation available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>)
 - Within the Downtown area, Okeechobee Boulevard is listed as a hotspot for congestion and is also a safety issue, as 25% of automobile crashes within the City happen there.
 - To accommodate growing population trends, City engineers are looking at changes to a total of 19 miles of streets to make walking, biking, and public transportation more

welcoming. There are 45 projects slated to tackle this issue, with Tamarind Avenue possibly the first one considered. (All projects are listed here: wpbmobility.com/)

- Light rail is also being considered, and the city is hoping to develop nodes to connect rail lines more efficiently, especially with Brightline routes.

- Bike Master Plan – Heather Tribou, Senior Planner
 - Heather Tribou is working to align a Bike Master Plan with the Downtown Master Plan to accommodate more bike lanes and expanding existing bike lanes and making protected bike lanes for safety. (Presentation available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>)
 - The Bike Master Plan will help to make a cultural shift to have biking be a more popular mode of transportation for West Palm Beach visitors and residents. Biking also increases tourism, sales, and property values, so it would be an advantageous goal for the City to address.
 - Expanded biking options would also factor into the City’s sustainability goals, since biking would minimize the environmental impacts associated with climate change, including less fossil fuel and metal consumption. Biking and walking also contribute to a healthier society, with less risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity.
 - Scott Kelly mentioned that SkyBike is doing very well and there is talk of the program going dockless, enabling users to leave the rental bikes at places other than the original bike dock for a small fee, which would free up more areas for people to bike to and from.
 - Uyen and Heather are also looking at connecting Park and Ride lots, Palm Tran routes, and City Trolley routes to improve public transportation ridership.
 - Paula Ryan mentioned that this will help accommodate a growing population and an increased population density as more people flock to Florida.

- Solar Code Updates - Heather Tribou, Senior Planner
 - Heather Tribou informed the Committee on the latest updates to the solar zoning code, which included a one day permit process with a flat fee. This one day permit would only be for Tier 1 uses (PV systems less than 10 kwh). Tier 2 and 3 systems would require more standards and also come with more restrictions due to larger systems (PV systems >10 kwh). (Presentation available on the website: <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-advisory-committee/>)
 - Rooftop systems would have to stay flush with roofline and cannot extend more the 6 ft above the roofline. Ground mounted systems would be limited to a 25 ft height maximum.
 - There are more regulations for residences in the historic district that will be highlighted in the language of the permitting process, to make sure all residents fully comprehend the permit requirements.
 - Penni Redford added that this streamlined process will help the City achieve its two big goals of getting to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and also transitioning to 100% renewable energy.

Future Meetings

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

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM.