

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, October 6, 2011

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:05 PM in the City Hall Community Center.

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present: Diana Guidry, Chairperson, Gary Hines, Didier Dupuy, Patti Webster, Gladys DiGirolamo, Steve Gara, Rick Dronsky, Jeri Habenicht, Secretary

Not in attendance: Olga Alvarez, Jim Bowman, Catherine Erice (who has exceeded her allotted absences).

APPROVE THE MINUTES: There was a unanimous vote to approve the GAB minutes from August after Rick's motion and Patty's second to it. September minutes included mention of the cancellation of that meeting due to lack of quorum in attendance, and everyone approved these minutes after Patty's motion and Gladys's second.

OPENING REMARKS:

GUEST SPEAKER:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jeffrey Keating was in attendance and handed out information on the Coalition against Nuclear Cost Recovery Funding to all the members. He urged us to research this topic and to let our voices be heard (as individual citizens) about this funding. He also touted the advantages of solar heating and electric alternatives and shared that rebates are available through FP&L for interested home owners. The website to visit is www.fpl.com/solarrebates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS: We have been invited to present the new Green Sustainability Plan to the Commission at City Hall on Thursday night, October 27, 2011. All members will be wearing green that night. We had spoken about inviting interested parties to attend this workshop to voice opinion about the pros or cons of the city having a green plan. There would be a platform for the public audience to speak for 3 minutes (each) to the Commission so it could learn how their constituents feel about this plan. As a workshop, there will be opportunity for comments both before and afterward. Patty requested that the final draft of the presentation be emailed to the board one last time before the meeting for our final perusal. We had discussed a group photo to put in the power point being presented that night, and the group decided to meet in front of the pavilion next Monday, October 10, at 6:30pm (wearing green) for this photo. We took a tentative photo outside City Hall in case this does not materialize.

NEW BUSINESS: Diana shared that the Cooper City Tree and Plant Workshop went very well on September 17. More people were in attendance with more first-time participants this year.

Patty shared that the Southeast Florida 4-County Regional Climate Change Compact has been moved to December 8th & 9th. The place will remain the same in Key Largo. Sea level rise has been projected to the year 2060, plans for the region have been developed, and crossover issues are being discussed for a final plan. There is no registration fee to attend this, and Patty will remind the commissioners of this summit at the October 27 workshop as they have already been emailed information on the Compact. Diana encouraged the Board members to attend this and to attend the Broward County Climate Change Task Force on November 17 from 1:30-4:30 at the West Regional Library. We will ask Carol to see if any of the commissioners are attending.

Broward County launched its Energy Start Appliance Rebate (which sold out in 6 hours) several weeks ago. Water Conservation rebates have also just began (up to \$100 rebate/toilet). Several municipalities have offered rebates, but in some cases expensive permits are required before installation!

The South Florida Regional Planning Council has received \$500,000 grant from Department of Energy to prepare communities for electric vehicles. Diana said that GAB could perhaps help the city become a recipient of this money. Diana suggested a guest speaker to address this issue at the next meeting to see what is required. Patty will keep us posted on the status of this grant.

America Recycles Day will be held on November 12 from 9:00am-Noon, at Vista View Park.

Diana encouraged us to consider the guest speakers for future GAB meetings now that the Green Plan has been drafted. We will have to wait for the Commissioners' reaction to see if any additional work needs to be done on this plan, however, before we make future plans. Gladys suggested a speaker on a community garden.

Diana wanted to share that the Broward County Emerald Award Program is looking for candidates to nominate as recipients for this year's award. She wants to encourage Cooper City businesses to apply. Jeri recommended that Diana attend the Cooper City Chamber of Commerce meeting with this invitation.

Rick updated the Board on the status of the recycling carts which are likely to take another 6 months and which will cost approximately \$500,000. The city feels that funding for this may be available in 6 months, so the idea is to avoid this costly purchase by waiting for this funding to become available.

Rick wondered if the Board could recommend that the City require businesses (or any high user facilities that have multiple flushes throughout the day) to be in compliance with low flow flush requirements. This would support the City's three-year water conservation effort. Cooper City facilities have already been upgraded. We discussed the pros and cons of government regulation on proprietary establishments.

Rick mentioned a program called Food Forward in follow up to Gladys' interest in community gardens. This program is being implemented in other cities to distribute unused fruit (from residential sites) to needy people. Volunteers are solicited to do the work. This idea met with hearty approval.

Gladys also recommended that we push for NWF Certified Backyards in the city. We recommended that the future GAB meetings be held at members' homes to promote certification of their individual property. We could spend a few minutes before/after the meetings to assess each member's yard for potentially meeting certification requirements.

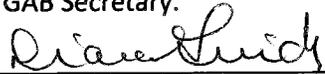
BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2011, in the City Hall Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm.

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by , Chair of the Green

Advisory Board on 11-3-, 2011