

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, April 5, 2012

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:15pm in the City Hall Community Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present: Diana Guidry, Chairperson, Didier Dupuy, Steven Gara, Gladys DiGirolamo, Jeri Habenicht, Secretary,

Not in attendance: Gary Hines, Olga Alvarex, Patti Webster, Rick Dronsky

APPROVE THE MINUTES: After Steve Gara made a motion, Didier seconded it, and the minutes from March 1, 2012, were unanimously approved as they stood.

OPENING REMARKS:

GUEST SPEAKER:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Debbie Athas was present and complimented Diana on her wonderful job at Water Matters Day on March 10 and on the presentation of the Emerald Award Winners at the WMD Appreciation Luncheon at Tree Tops Park on March 22. Debra has applied and is still waiting upon word of her appointment to GAB. We suggested that she remind the board that she is still interested.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS: We discussed the progress of the development of the GAB website. Steve, who has been key in this development, explained the progress and what would need to be done by the hosting company to keep a GAB site current on the city's website. Diana liked the format which conforms to the city's site. Didier suggested that we find out from the other boards how their webpages are sustained so we know the protocol. Diana will approach Bruce for an appointment with the IT rep to see how user friendly our webpage mockup is for implementation. Thank you, Steve, for your hard work in pursuing this effort!

Diana agreed to create the proclamation for the commission to accept and approve the GAB's Sustainability proposal which was presented in November, 2011, at a regularly scheduled commission meeting.

The Cooper City Environmental Series begins April 11 from 6:00-8:30pm, and Diana invited all the GAB members to attend (registration required). The series has been publicized on the city's website and marquee, and the mayor and commissioners plan to be present. Diana passed out flyers for members to distribute throughout the city, and Diana will approach the HOA contact persons with information about the series. Mike Bailey said that the participants may be able to take a tour of the city's water treatment plant as a bonus feature. Diana agreed to publicize Pioneer Middle School's Super Science Saturday (SSS) on May 12 each week as SSS is part of the Series. With the help of Cooper City and Broward School Board, over four hundred native trees and plants will be distributed at SSS. In return, Jeri will ask for permission to publicize the Environmental Series on Pioneer's website. The Environmental Series will featured in the Sun Sentinel on April 29.

Cooper City's Founder's Day is April 28, and Diana distributed a flyer to remind us to attend. As part of the parade, participants must arrive by 9:00am, and those of us who are available will be there to walk. GAB will wear its new green shirts with logo. Jeri will recruit students dressed in green to walk in the parade with hand-made environmental posters. Diane offered to purchase the necessary supplies to make these posters along with some supplies for SSS. GAB then agreed to man a booth on Founder's

Day from 3-6pm at Brian Piccolo County Park with an activity wheel and prizes. We will publicize the last two dates for the Environmental Series at Founder's Day activities, also. We will ask Mike Bailey if he has prizes left over from Water Matters Day to distribute at the Founder's Day GAB booth.

NEW BUSINESS: Diana would like to get a photo of all the GAB members wearing the new green shirts with logo that just arrived. We will try to take this group photo on April 11 at the 1st session of the Environmental Series.

We discussed the possibility to changing the night of the GAB meetings so that everyone could attend (since Olga is seldom available on our current meeting date.) The first Monday of every month is available in the Community Center Meeting Room, so we will email all the GAB members with the potential of moving the regular meeting date to then.

Diana thanked Steve for his research on grant opportunities. Diana explained how time intensive it is to apply for them. Diana explained that many of the available grants are matching grants, so this is a stumbling block. Also, specific projects need to be in mind to find the perfect grant for which to apply. It is a daunting challenge to match project to its appropriate grant. Gladys suggested the city hiring a part-time grant writer who would work on a commission basis only. (Perhaps a recently retired resident would be interested in this opportunity?) It was suggested that a person who had just completed the BC grant writing coursework would be a perfect candidate! Furthermore, this person could work for several municipalities to diversify his/her income opportunities. Diana explained Sustainability Stewards are meeting regularly under the auspices of Broward County Sustainability Division to explore and share grant opportunities. She encouraged Cooper City to send representatives to these meetings to network with others in attendance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING: The next GAB meeting date is May 3, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by Diana Gladys Chair of the Green
Advisory Board on 5-3-, 2012