

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, August 2, 2012

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present: Diana Guidry, Chairperson, Gary Hines, Didier Dupuy, Patti Webster, Debra Athas, Jeri Habenicht, Secretary.

Not in attendance: Gladys DiGirolamo and Rick Dronsky (who has resigned from GAB)

APPROVE THE MINUTES: The meeting was called to order at 6:17pm in the Cooper City Community Meeting Room. After briefly considering the GAB May meeting minutes, Didier made a motion with Gary's second to approve these minutes. The board unanimously agreed. Next Gary made a motion to approve the June minutes with Debra's second with one correction to properly spell Debra's last which is Athas. The board unanimously approved the minutes with this correction. It was agreed among all members that Olga, Steve and Rick will be sorely missed on the board.

OPENING REMARKS: Gary told about the recent special presentation at the July 24th Broward County School Board meeting in which the National Wildlife Federation officially certified the school board for its work in promoting NWF stewardship among teachers and NWF school yard certifications within the county. The School Board of Broward County is the first county in the COUNTRY to receive this mark of distinction from the federation. Dr. Robert Parks, former school board member, was on hand to celebrate the moment for his important role in promoting environmental awareness among board members and schools. NatureScape, under the superb direction of Diana Guidry and Victor Suarez, was the guiding force in training teachers and advising schools to meet the criteria for this major accomplishment.

GUEST SPEAKER:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS: GAB's Sustainability Plan was adopted at the July Commission meeting. However, Patty noted that there was a slight difference in the wording of the wetlands mitigation that concerned her. (The board identified a Scribner's error.) Diana will make sure that the most recent version of Action 2.6 will be the document of record. The last sentence should read (as in the final version of the plan that was presented) "... to develop a plan by 2015 that will include, but not be limited to, the creation of a Nature Preserve to include kiosks, boardwalks, pathways, ..." After 18 months' of hard work, GAB was very proud to gain final acceptance of the Sustainability Plan by the Commission.

Subsequent to this acceptance, GAB discussed an Implementation Matrix to use in monitoring the progress made in utilizing the plan. Patty displayed a sample matrix which GAB will use at future meetings to taper for this use. Gary further suggested that the Public Works Department or Utilities, for instance, could attend future GAB meetings to discuss points on the matrix that pertain specifically to individual departments. These points would then be monitored for the degree of successful implementation.

NEW BUSINESS: The board previewed an updated list of GAB members and their dates of service. Several members have recently resigned while others will have their term of service expire with the November elections. We discussed and encouraged members to recommend new nominees to fill these vacancies. Those with expiring terms can request to continue membership on the board in a letter addressed to the commission.

Diana then asked the board to consider the opportunity of developing a scholarship fund for Cooper City students in the amount of \$7500 which was received from Waste Management, Inc., of Florida. One recommendation was to include schools in this grant/scholarship opportunity. GAB discussed the criteria that would be used to evaluate the students/schools who submit applications. We also discussed making this grant a STEM opportunity to promote science, technology, engineering and math. Jeri mentioned that we need to act quickly if we plan to make this opportunity known for the upcoming school year (if science projects are going to be used as one of the judging criteria.) Gary suggested making a scholarship available to one college bound student with environmental school grants being made available with the rest of the money. A matrix could be developed for potential applicants to use as guidelines with this same criteria being used as the grading rubric to determine the winners. The money would be dispersed in varying amounts among the winning student/grant candidates. GAB appreciates this wonderful opportunity provided by Waste Management to honor and help deserving students and schools in Cooper City. GAB will discuss the criteria to be used for determining the amount of money to be dispersed to student/school applicants at the next board meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 6, 2012, with further discussion of the scholarship fund and goal setting for future meetings as important agenda items. We will also further discuss the implementation matrix.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by Diana Rudy, Chair of the Green
Advisory Board on 9-6, 2012