

## GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, October 1, 2015

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:07 pm in the Meeting Room of the Rock Creek Pool and Tennis Center.

**ATTENDANCE:** The following Green Advisory Board members were present: Diana Guidry, Chairperson, Jan Lowenthal, Scott Lynch, Michelle McKay, Gary Hines, Lill Maniscalco, Paul Kragh and Jeri Habenicht, Secretary

Not in attendance: Ian Dasho, absent; Janice Malkoff, excused

Also in attendance: Commissioner Lisa Mallozzi, Bob Kirschbaum & Janet Arculeo, Tree Inventory volunteers

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:** After Jan's motion and Lill's second to it, the board unanimously agreed to approve the GAB minutes from September.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Diana welcomed Commissioner Mallozzi and thanked her for coming tonight. Each board member introduced him/herself to the Commissioner and Lisa explained how the Green Advisory Board had been her brainchild because she has always been interested in the environment. Diana officially welcomed Paul Kragh as a new GAB member as his membership had been officially approved by the commission.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** Diana explained that in lieu of next month's meeting, GAB will be touring the Utility Plant on 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Also planned this year is a tour of the Recycling Plant (which is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.) We will try schedule a tour of this plant to accommodate the newer members of the board as some members have already toured it.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Diana and Scott were praised for their excellent presentations at the Tree and Landscaping Workshop on September 19. The board commended Jeanette Wofford on her continued outstanding efforts to organize and coordinate a wide range of interesting speakers/various topics for this informative and worthwhile community outreach. Scott spoke about the traveling exhibit trifold board which had been on display with marvelous reception from the community at this workshop.

Scott also said that there was a proposed 'Give a Hoot Day' planned for April 1 via Project Perch. An Eco Fair could possibly be combined with this celebration. Girl and Boy Scout troops in Cooper City could be recruited for this type of event. Diana suggested that we put some thought behind this and possibly coordinate with Founders Day as it is already on the calendar and may be less expensive this way. Another suggestion was to approach the PTSA Boards in the local schools. The Senior Advisory Board is still another way to publicize this 'celebration' as the center recently received funding to advertise all the city's activities. The seniors are hosting a Senior Expo in December, and GAB could poll the patrons there regarding future Eco efforts. City Food Truck events could be another avenue to publicize or inventory the community regarding future Eco events.

Commissioner Mallozzi expressed her feelings about the artificial turf which is being considered for Cooper City recreational fields after being approached about this subject which is being discussed at an upcoming commission meeting.

Bob Kirschbaum reported that the number of trees inventoried so far is 8,900 as of the end of August and this number does not include the more recently inventoried city park areas. Scott said that the data would be great to determine tree density (trees/population) and other statistics for the city.

Diana briefly told about the Taiwan Delegation's visit to Griffin Elementary School, and she also mentioned the Broward Centennial Habitat Garden grant and other projects at Cooper City High School.

Diana gave an update on the city's NWF Community Wildlife Habitat certification and how closely Cooper City is to being certified. Michelle relayed how she has approached her HOA to encourage residents to become certified.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Diana received a phone call from Dr. Honey Rand of the Environmental PR Group who wanted to speak with GAB regarding the upcoming Neighborhood Water Challenge/Conservation Pays Program with which Cooper City is a partner. A phone call took place at 7:05pm between Honey and GAB. She explained how last year's program (Switch-a-Roo) involved one winner who won the 'bank'. This year the program is called the Neighborhood Water Challenge. Groups of 2-5 neighbors will attempt to conserve water in April/May of 2016, and the result will be compared to last year's usage. The winning team would win \$1000/household with the member who saves the most water earning an additional \$500. Second place prize would be a moisture sensor irrigation system. Designing an Education Program to save is another component of the challenge. Publicity about this challenge will be available next week with the website (Conservationpays.com) posted within the same time frame. Teams have to be established by March 15. To constitute a team, all members have to be on the same public supply system. There will be an online application and also one to download and return.

Diana received a note from a Cooper City High School student who wants to start an organization or club in the city to address environmental issues. Gary asked about our previous efforts to add a student to the board, and since this idea has already been approved, Gary suggested this student and her family attend the next meeting. This student may want to be a liaison to GAB. Diana will suggest that she take advantage of the high school opportunities (such as SITE Club.) Diana told of a previous meeting with a middle school student who initiated a sticker to put on water faucets in schools to remind students to conserve water. NatureScape continued this idea with booklet/sticker giveaways.

Diana shared an opportunity from Recycle Bank about a school grant competition called 'Green Schools' (<https://www.recyclebank.com/about-us/green-schools>). The 50 best proposals will be selected by Recycle Bank to participate in a challenge for prizes. Jeri already submitted an application from Pioneer Middle School.

Commissioner Mallozzi explained how San Francisco currently has a zero landfill tolerance policy. She suggested that GAB look into the possibility of emulating this effort. Everything is either being recycled or composted, and if items cannot fit into either of these categories, they are outlawed.

Diana initiated discussion of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge which is an effort by NWF for all municipal mayors to sign a pledge for communities to take action steps to help the monarch butterflies. There is no charge to make this pledge, and Diana mention at least six efforts already in place in Cooper City that would qualify as action steps to satisfy this effort. Gary made a motion, which Scott seconded and the board unanimously passed, for Diana to approach Mayor Ross to sign the Monarch Pledge.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 5, 2015, when GAB members will tour the Utility Plant. In December, GAB will resume discussion of a possible city-wide environmental challenge or 'Give a Hoot Day.'

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion duly made by Jeri and seconded by Paul, it was unanimously VOTED by the board to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by \_\_\_\_\_, Chair of the Green

Advisory Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2015