

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, September 3, 2015

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:06 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, Janice Malkoff, Jan Lowenthal, Scott Lynch, Michelle McKay, Lill Maniscalco and Jeri Habenicht, Secretary

Not in attendance: Gary Hines and Ian Dasho, excused

Also in attendance: Bob Kirschbaum, Paul Kragh; Jackie Sanchez, Environmental Club sponsor, Millie Cepero-Perez, Reading Specialist & Assistant Principal Angie Jones, all representing Griffin Elementary School

APPROVE THE MINUTES: The minutes from August 6, 2015, GAB meeting were unanimously approved by the board after Janice made a motion to approve and Jan seconded the motion.

OPENING REMARKS: Diana welcomed everyone and announced that we had a really full agenda this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: As director of the city's Tree Inventory Project, Bob Kirschbaum reported that as of the end of July, 8550 trees in the city have been inventoried. The volunteers are currently concentrating on the trees in city parks. Bob projected that there would easily be over 10,000 trees inventoried by the end of the project. In spite of the fact that the grant has expired, Bob will press forward to complete the project! Diana explained the purpose of the Tree Inventory Program to the guests in the audience.

Paul announced that he anticipates being appointed to the board by the next GAB meeting. GAB unanimously cheered!

GUEST SPEAKER: The representatives from Griffin Elementary School (noted above) presented a marvelous National Wildlife Federation USA - Taiwan Eco Campus Partnership Program power point presentation on their recent visit to Taiwan. They explained that becoming an Eco School involved 7 steps and how Griffin had become involved in 2014. Consequently, this trip was made available for privileged participating partners. In turn, a group of distinguished delegates from EPA Taiwan will be visiting Griffin Elementary and other member schools in the US in early October. Also, Solar Fest will be held October 9-10 at Broward County Convention Center, and Diana suggested that the Eco teachers might take their environmental students to this. A scavenger hunt is available for students who attend.

Diana also explained how eight Broward County elementary schools have become involved in the very successful US - Taiwan Eco Schools Partnership. Since Taiwan is so enthusiastic about the results, 14 more schools throughout the US will be invited to join (which includes several more schools in Broward.)

Diana asked about future guest speakers at GAB meetings, and Janice suggested a speaker on sea levels/climate change. Diana said she would investigate the possibility of a potential speaker from Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Department.

Jan wanted to know if we should revisit the city's GAB Green Plan to see if there is an area that needs attention. She also suggested partnering with the CC Education Board to engage the local schools in more environmental initiatives. Diana said that she could approach the Education Board with this suggestion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS: Board resumed discussion of the GAB Wildlife Habitat display at the CC Annual Tree & Plant Workshop. Jan distributed a personally made handout to address CC efforts to become a NWF Certified Community. Perhaps those residents who become certified could automatically be entered into a lottery to win a prize? Jan's handouts could be distributed in City Hall and other public places to draw attention to the cause. Scott then demonstrated the trifold display board that the GAB has been planning. Scott distributed a prototype of the poster that will be printed and laminated for the trifold. Discussion of funding for this project ensued.

NEW BUSINESS: Various upcoming environmental volunteering opportunities are approaching. Audubon's Race 4 the Birds will take place on October 10. Local schools are encouraged to create participation teams in an effort to introduce children to the wonderful world of birding. The annual Coastal Beach Cleanup will be held September 19, the same weekend as CC Tree and Plant Workshop.

Diana, along with other Cooper City staff, participated in a WBID walk on September 2 which involved an Impaired Water Body Assessment (water body ID), and she informed the board of the findings of this undertaking.

Cooper City High School applied for one of the Broward Centennial Habitat Gardens, and Diana suggested working with the SITE Club via its new sponsor, Illiana Polatis, who was thrilled to have an activity to begin the year. CCHS also applied for the Florida Wildflower Council Seeds for Schools Garden Grants and received it, and Diana encouraged GAB members to volunteer to help with both these efforts. Discussion ensued about additional handouts and posters to display on September 19 (which included cost/reimbursement means.)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED by the board to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm after a motion made by Janice and seconded by Jan .

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by , Chair of the Green

Advisory Board on 9/3/15, 2015