

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, September 4, 2014

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:07 p.m. in the conference room of the Cooper City Pool and Tennis Center.

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present: Diana Guidry—Chairperson, Jan Lowenthal, Janice Malkoff, Patricia Martineau, Debra Athas, Ian Dasho, Michelle McKay, and Gary Hines—Vice Chairperson.

Excused, not in attendance: Jerilyn Habenicht and Gladys DiGirolamo (resignation submitted)

Also in attendance: Robert Kirschbaum, Cooper City Tree Inventory Chairperson

Guest: Commissioner Jamie Curran

MEETING MINUTES: Janice Malkoff made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2014, meeting with no corrections. Jan Lowenthal seconded and they were unanimously approved and accepted as standing. Debbie Athas will record this meeting's minutes in Jeri Habenicht's absence.

OPENING REMARKS: Diana welcomed Commissioner Curran with pleasure and thanked him for joining the Board's monthly meeting. Diana offered Commissioner Curran the floor and he requested to postpone main remarks until later in the meeting in the hope of addressing the most pertinent topics of interest.

NEW BUSINESS: Cooper City's annual Tree and Plant Workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 6th, at City Hall. Diana encouraged Board members to attend. We will have a booth to inform participants about the ongoing initiative to certify Cooper City as a certified wildlife habitat city. There are 103 homes certified and about 50 more are needed to qualify. Points toward certification are also earned by projects such as the tree inventory.

The Board will now permanently meet at the Pool and Tennis Center.

Patricia Martineau disappointedly announced this is her last meeting as she has moved to the west coast. She mentioned with regret her name was never added to the city website as a GAB member because she is very proud to have served. General discussion followed about the website and some frustration was voiced that information is not reliably maintained. Commissioner Curran pledged to address this issue with staff, as well as make certain Patricia's name is posted until replacement members are appointed in about three months.

Ian Dasho expressed concern the environmental club at Cooper City Elementary may become inactive because the club has lost its staff sponsor. Diana offered some insight into potential solutions.

Gary Hines reported that for the past two years, Broward Schools have won prestigious environmental awards at local, state, and national levels. Participating officials recently traveled to Washington D.C. to receive the Department of Education's Green Ribbon Award. Cooper City schools should nurture seeking out recognition and funding for environmental initiatives.

Diana announced that the biannual National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward training will be held January 5th through the 9th, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are limited to 20 students and GAB members are excellent candidates for this comprehensive education.

OLD BUSINESS: Bob Kirschbaum gave an update on the ongoing tree inventory project. The summer weather hindered progress a bit, but he expects the pace to pick up when the heat breaks a little. The inventory has passed the 10 percent completion mark. He is still seeking volunteers and no special skill or knowledge is needed. Diana thanked Bob for all his outstanding work and the Board thinks highly of this important effort.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Ian updated us on his ambitious backyard project of aquaponics and offered educational DVDs to anyone who may be interested in learning more.

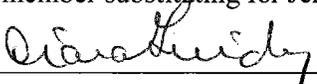
COMMISSIONER CURRAN stated he felt privileged to be at our meeting. He feels our work is phenomenal and he is a big supporter. After a discussion regarding retention areas on the high school grounds, it was decided GAB members will have a tour of the school on Thursday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m.

A mix of contemporary matters of interest was outlined. He gave us an update on a “We Love Patty Webster” proclamation and requested the Board provide a brief biography of Patty and a recommendation. The tall concrete wall on Griffin Road is deteriorating badly and repair work is going out for bid. Several topics were related to Palm/100th Avenue, including the passive park being installed and the recently-closed street (51st). Commissioner Curran supports opening the street again. Commissioner John Sims has the only election race underway. Cooper City is tentatively planning to donate \$100k for IT equipment to our schools and its use will be restricted to classrooms so students get the maximum benefit. Cooper City High School ranked 17th in academics in the nation last year. The city is the only one remaining where children can start kindergarten and finish high school all within their own town. Board members then introduced themselves to Commissioner Curran, who said he looks forward to the minutes.

CONCLUSION: Tuesday, 9/15/14 is the commission’s budget workshop. Tuesday, 10/14/14, Diana will be submitting a GAB presentation at the commission meeting as a result of a suggestion that city boards provide annual updates on activities. Members are requested to attend. Diana submitted a letter of request for funding of \$1,200 to support GAB outreach and the certified habitat initiative. It was suggested that storage space be requested for GAB event materials and the like. It was generally agreed that each GAB meeting and the city would mutually benefit from alternating commissioners in attendance as more personal interaction is very helpful.

The next GAB meeting will be October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Pool and Tennis Center. Janice Malkoff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patricia Martineau. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Debbie Athas, GAB member substituting for Jerilyn Habenicht

The foregoing minutes were approved by , Chair of the Green Advisory Board on 10-2, 2014.