

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, October 3, 2013

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:03 pm in the Conference Room of the Cooper City Community Center.

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present: Diana Guidry, Chairperson, Janice Malkoff, Ian Dasho, Debra Athas, and Jan Lowenthal, Patricia Martineau and Jeri Habenicht, Secretary

Not in attendance: Gary Hines, Gladys DiGirolamo (both excused)

Also in attendance in the audience: Walt Jolliff and Scott Lynch

APPROVE THE MINUTES: Approval of the minutes from the September meeting were unanimously approved after Janice's motion and Debra's second to it. Diana will speak with Carol about posting the minutes on the city's website or emailing copies of the minutes for committee perusal before the meeting.

OPENING REMARKS:

GUEST SPEAKER:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS: The Tree and Plant Workshop on 9-28-13 was exceptional. Jan handed out a news article from Sun Sentinel about the event. The GAB Demo Garden at this event, created from donated plants from Florida Nursery Mart on Griffin Road just west of 106 Avenue, was a huge success. The donated plants were later installed at the Rock Creek Pool and Tennis Center playground area. Diana asked for suggestions for other areas to place Demo Gardens to encourage community interest. Diana then indicated the progress of accomplishing the NWF Certified Community Award for Cooper City. Cooper City currently has 90 certified homes (with 150 the targeted goal.) Jan said her Rock Creek HOA would like GAB to address its board on 11-13-13. Janice suggested that we outreach other HOA's in the area to promote the Demo Garden and NWF certification.

Janice asked if there had been any word yet regarding the Waste Management scholarship opportunities for this coming year. Diana said she would look into this.

NEW BUSINESS: Diana reported on the special meeting with utilities and recreation last week (9-26-13) regarding the landscaping plans for the new Flamingo Road Park. GAB wanted to discuss and review the environmental impacts of the plans for this park. Diana displayed visual layouts of several landscaping scenarios for this park which will be designated exclusively for soccer. As a consequence, artificial turf grass was being considered as an alternative to regular sod. Diana's research on artificial turf indicated that the heat factor generated by synthetic turf is 30-50 degrees higher than that generated by asphalt! Irrigation can be used to cool off the artificial field, but there were currently no plans to include irrigation facilities at the park. Furthermore, the second option for development, which is one preferred by the Optimist Club, includes removal of many of the trees and an increase in parking spaces. This would further increase the heat index on the field. Diana further added that the maintenance costs can average \$40,000/year where artificial turf is only \$7,000 to \$8,000. However, the initial cost of installing synthetic turf is HUGE, and it lasts approximately 8 years. There are still maintenance costs involved with artificial turf, and there are more injuries associated with the maintenance of it, not to mention the injuries associated with play on this type of surface. Ian offered that the soccer season is typically November – February, but Diana said the plan is to play on these fields all year long. A future workshop

is being planned with the commission and all GAB members are invited. Diana said she would like to invite Dr. Busey, retired from UF Extension Service and a turf grass expert, to speak at the next GAB meeting. GAB was receptive to this suggestion. After each member gave personal input about the current plans, Diana encouraged GAB members to further research the topic of artificial turf vs regular sod. She continued by encouraging all board members to attend the upcoming commission workshop. In addition, the city's Recreation Board will be invited to attend the next GAB meeting if Dr. Busey is available to speak.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 7, 2013. Recreation will be invited if Dr. Busey is available to speak.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm after Jeri's motion and Janice's second to it.

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by *Diana Rudy* Chair of the Green

Advisory Board on 11/7/, 2013