

## GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, November 7, 2013

A meeting of the Green Advisory Board was called to order at 6:01 pm in the Conference Room of the Cooper City Community Center.

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

Not in attendance: none

Also in attendance in the audience: Dr. Philip Busey, Robert Kirschbaum, and Jeff Keating, former Board member

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:** Approval of the minutes from the October 3 meeting was motioned by Janice and seconded by Patricia with unanimous Board approval.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Diana began by welcoming Michelle McKay as the recently appointed new GAB member. She gave a brief synopsis of her interest in being a member of GAB, and the Board gave her a hearty welcome!

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr. Philip Busey, PhD in Agronomy, retired UF researcher (see old business below)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Robert Kirschbaum gave an update regarding the grants from the Bloomberg Foundation to get resident baby boomers involved in the city. The focus of the grant money is twofold: to reinvigorate the Museum/Historic Room at the Pool and Tennis Club in Rock Creek for Founders Day in April and to conduct an inventory of the city's trees.

Robert announced that all the materials/equipment have been purchased for the tree inventory and that its inception is within reach. Robert would like to provide training in the first few weeks of December for GAB members to serve as team leaders, and he listed the parameters of this training. Jeanette Wofford would be available to do this training for GAB. We suggested that perhaps Jeanette be asked to provide two training sessions to accommodate the working schedules of all the GAB members.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**OLD BUSINESS:** The previously approved Public Input Policy document which had been prepared by Carol Adams for signature was officially signed by Diana and Jeri on the spaces provided.

We then resumed discussion of the proposal of using artificial turf on the new Flamingo Road park. Dr. Philip Busey, PhD in Agronomy and an expert on this topic who has spent 35 years with University of Florida in research, addressed the board on the pros and cons of artificial turf. Natural turf allows for year-round use of fields, but the cost of maintenance can exceed synthetic turf several times over. Artificial turf can be used more seasons of the year with less concern about overuse. The installation cost is a major consideration, however. The heat factor on artificial turf is a serious consideration, also, which can reach 92 degrees Celsius. A comparison of injuries on both turfs is outdated as newer synthetic turf is now much safer. The carbon footprint of synthetic turf is higher than natural turf. The biggest consideration is possibly the economics involved, but there is no definitive research to substantiate the use of either type of turf concerning this consideration. Dr Busey has visited several sites in south Florida where artificial turf is installed. Dr. Busey said that in light of the pros and cons of both turfs, that it might make sense to have a combination of the two on the new field.

GAB had a much better grasp of the advantages and disadvantages of both natural and synthetic turf for the new park after a thorough discussion/question/answer round table with Dr. Busey. GAB is extremely grateful for Dr. Busey's input and for taking the time and trouble to attend this meeting. Dr. Busey graciously offered his expertise for any future questions/concerns that the Board might have. There will be a Commission Workshop on December 3, 2013, to discuss the turf issues, and Diana encouraged all board members to attend.

Diana shared her input from fellow sustainability coworkers in Broward County who overall are very pleased with the artificial turf that had been installed in their own communities. The board members offered their personal comments as GAB considered and listed the pros and cons for Diana to send to the Commission before the workshop on 12/3/13.

Each GAB member now has a copy of the final edit of the Sustainability Implementation Guide which had graciously been provided through Debra's efforts. Diana will submit a copy to Bruce Loucks for final approval.

Diana announced to the Board that members could contact Carol Adams to place orders for GAB shirts if they so wished.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 5, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm after a motion made by Gladys, seconded by Gary and unanimously approved by the Board.

Minutes submitted by Jerilyn L. Habenicht, GAB Secretary.

The foregoing Minutes were approved by *Diana Busey*, Chair of the Green  
Advisory Board on 12/5/13, 2013