

LANDSCAPE ADVISORY BOARD

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

December 1, 2015

The regular meeting of the LANDSCAPE ADVISORY BOARD was called to order by Chairman Vollovick at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, 301 NW 103 Avenue, Pembroke Pines, Florida. Present to-wit: Chairman Vollovick, Vice Chairman Umpierre, Members Jones, Cordova, Hasandras; J. Yaciuk, Planning Division; B. Koubek, Liaison; Asst. City Attorney Farah Nerette, and Secretary Epstein. Also present: Former Commissioner Jack McCluskey. Absent: Member Marcos.

The Secretary declared a quorum present.

MINUTES

On a motion by Vice Chairman Umpierre, seconded by Member Jones, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015 meeting, as presented, the motion was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATION

Chairman Vollovick introduced Mr. Raul Martinez, a representative of the AstroTurf company, who gave a presentation on usage of artificial grasses and their application and sustainability. A Q and A period followed.

LIAISON REPORT

- Mr. Koubek distributed updated report on new development reviews and inspections, landscape permits and completed projects

- Discussion and report from previous meeting re costs for conducting city-wide tree survey (further discussion under New Business)
- Mr. Koubek supplied the City's groundcover ordinance for Board information
- Reported on website updates regarding landscaping information - (1) link to "Find a Certified Arborist", (2) new digital map on National Wildlife habitats
- Great Florida Birding Trail at Chapel Trail - nomination form complete for submission

OLD BUSINESS

Member Hasandras offered suggestions for The Landscape Board's activities at the 2016 art festival. She recommended a container gardening activity and a children's activity of chiming garden pots. There was consensus that these activities go forward, with appropriate funding for materials, to be arranged by Staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Koubek reported on the Board's request for costs of a tree inventory. He stated various options for acquiring such inventory:

- (1) Community volunteers, which might prove to be inaccurate due to the nature of volunteers' knowledge
- (2) City Staff - not feasible
Hiring a temporary employee
- (3) Putting the item out to bid at an hourly rate, which would be very cost-prohibitive.

The Board discussed the necessity of a conducting a tree inventory. The Chairman stated that a tree count would be helpful in the event of loss of trees in storms/hurricanes.

Chairman Vollovick passed the gavel to the Vice Chairman and made the following motion, seconded for discussion by Member Cordova, to approach the City Manager to ascertain the availability of funds to employ a company for a City tree inventory. Upon discussion, the motion was subsequently amended as follows:

On a motion by Chairman Vollovick, seconded by Member Cordova, to approach the City Manager to ascertain if funds are available for a tree inventory, as well as an aggressive planting project throughout the City, the MOTION FAILED 3 - 2.

Mr. Yaciuk advised that the City currently uses a computer software program called "I Tree", which analyzes tree canopy and provides a readout on the amount of tree canopy. He offered to provide information on this program at the January meeting, to which the Board agreed.

The Chairman again passed the gavel to the Vice Chair for action on previous discussion of a joint meeting with the City's Economic Development Board.

On a motion by Chairman Vollovick, seconded by Member Cordova, that a joint meeting with the Landscape Advisory and Economic Development Boards be held, at a time and date to be determined by Staff, with an agenda encompassing the economics of green initiatives, the motion was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Member Cordova advised that grant money can be available if the City Commission passes a non-binding resolution re promotion of wildflower education and awareness. There was consensus to have Staff convey draft language of such a resolution to the City Attorney for review and feasibility.

Member Cordova also suggested that the Board might "adopt" a patch on a City property for wildflower planting as a pilot program. This matter will be on the January, 2016 agenda

ABSENCES - None.

Member Marcos' December absence will be addressed at the January, 2016 meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

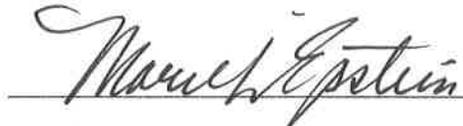
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Cordova moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie L. Epstein

Board Secretary

APPROVED: 1/5/16