

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

January 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD was called to order by Chairman Hasandras at 6:35 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, 301 NW 103 Avenue, Pembroke Pines, Florida. Present to-wit: Chairman Hasandras, Vice Chairman McCluskey, Members Cordova, Jones, Marcos, Tewari, Landivar; J. Yaciuk, K. Jensen, Planning Division; Asst. City Attorney Singer, and Marie Epstein, Board Secretary. Absent: Members Lewis, Siddiqui, Knowles.

The Secretary declared a quorum present.

PRESENTATION

Presentation by Member Tewari and J. Yaciuk of the Planning Division on the use of plastic straws. The presentation encompassed harm to the environment, cities already banning plastic straws, reduction of single-use plastics, what businesses can do to reduce plastic use, and draft ordinances of other cities.

Board discussion of the topic and action followed.

MINUTES

On a motion by Chairman Hasandras, seconded by Vice Chairman McCluskey, to approve minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting as presented, the motion was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

LIAISON REPORT

- Ms. Jensen distributed the monthly Board update noting figures on tree removal permits, landscape inspections, mitigation projects. She reported that the certification is being pursued for a staff member to become a National Wildlife Habitat Steward.
- Ms. Jensen reported on the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Award Contest, noting necessity for rescheduling of the EAB May meeting to accommodate determination of Contest winners.
- Mr. Yaciuk distributed flyer on upcoming Walking Audit of the City of Pembroke Pines, a project of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Tewari stated he is awaiting recommendation and a report from WastePro providing the Board with recycling information previously requested. Discussion on this item was tabled to the February meeting.

On a motion by Member Tewari, seconded by Member Cordova, to table discussion of this matter to the February meeting, the motion was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussion and action on plastic straws usage.

On a motion by Vice Chairman McCluskey, seconded by Member Cordova, to recommend passage of a resolution to discourage use of single-use plastic straws within six months; and within 12 months thereafter, urge the City as a whole to ban (amended by Chairman Hasandras, seconded by Member Cordova) "the distribution and commercial usage of") plastic straws, the motions were PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman relinquished the floor to the Vice Chairman.

On a motion by Chairman Hasandras, seconded by Member Cordova, to recommend that City Commission direct Staff to create a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing single-use plastic straws (amended by adding "to incorporate local businesses and residents"), the motions were PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was consensus that Chairman Hasandras approach Mayor Ortis to place the plastic straws issue on a City Commission agenda for consideration.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

February presentation by the South Broward Drainage District on canal cleanup (Member McCluskey).

ABSENCES

Action on January absentees to be addressed at the February meeting.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT - None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MARIE L. EPSTEIN
Board Secretary

APPROVED: 3-5-19

NEXT MEETING: February 5, 2019.