

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

May 2, 2023

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chair Tewari, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in The Frank Art Gallery.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Marcos; Members Cordova, Stephens, Tripathi, Rimarachin, and Johnson

Absent: Members Fancher, Smith and Naigur

Also Present: City Staff Liaison Joseph Yaciuk, City Staff Liaison Juliana Salazar-Rosario, Assistant City Attorney Paul Hernandez, Linda Flynn Public Arts Plan Consulting Services, and Board Secretary Nicole Lafrance

MINUTES:

On a motion by Member Stephens, seconded by Vice Chair Marcos, to approve the April 4, 2023 meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

On a motion by Member Cordova, seconded by Member Johnson, to excuse the absence of Member Naigur, passed unanimously.

REPORT OF LIAISON:

Liaison Juliana Salazar-Rosario briefly mentioned to Member Rimarachin regarding an email she sent to City Staff about an article about the flushing of wipes, where Liaison Salazar-Rosario would get this information published in City Connect so the public could be aware. Liaison Salazar-Rosario went on to mention in the landscape department, there have been 38 new tree removal permits, which has slowed down from last month. Liaison Salazar-Rosario also mentioned there have been 13 new solar panel permits from last meeting to the present. Liaison Salazar-Rosario also mentioned the closing of a mitigation project on Sheridan Secure Storage out west, and Tractor Supply.

Liaison Yaciuk discussed City Commission items such as the Green Plan being approved and thanked members who attended that meeting. Liaison Yaciuk mentioned on April 19, they did the Arbor Day proclamation and a presentation

for the Arbor Day poster winners, which included 7 schools competing. There was also a consent item that was passed which was to replace the doors and windows at the Pines Point property to make it more energy efficient. As well as May 3rd at the East Campus Administration to replace the HVAC system for energy efficiency. Liaison Yaciuk mentioned the consent item for City of Pembroke Pines to partner with FAU to identify watershed management plan, to identify flood prone zones. Liaison Yaciuk mentioned that at the City Commission meeting on May 3rd they will be discussing a piece of property and the possible purchase which would be used for parks and open spaces.

Liaison Yaciuk went on to discuss the Live Local Act, which is a State Act, is in place to provide affordable housing. This allows for development to be permitted administratively, so if there is a property that is developable and someone comes in and suggests for it to be affordable housing, if it meets city codes, that it could be approved without going to Commission. Member Cordova asked about the different zonings, Liaison Yaciuk mentioned that no site plan would be needed. Member Cordova asked if they would still need to meet setbacks, City Assistant Attorney Hernandez mentioned this bill would take affect July 1st, where the legislation came up with this to promote affordable housing, since there are a lot of industrial and commercial land and could be suitable for affordable housing they will preempt local government and a developer may develop affordable housing on these lands without having to seek zoning change or city processes and having to present before city boards.

OLD BUSINESS:

Liaison Yaciuk reviewed the Sustainability Coordinator position, where he has not received any updates from members, besides the description for the position was too broad. Liaison Yaciuk asked if this is something that members wanted to present on Board Night, or to be added in the board's annual report. Chair Tewari thinks this should be added to their annual report to recommend that the city hire a Sustainability Coordinator. Member Cordova brought up the wording of the recommendation.

Liaison Yaciuk went on to discuss the annual report, and he did not receive any updates with that. He went on to discuss that some of the required items are underlined in the report, if there were any modifications the board would like to make to get approval for the report. Liaison Yaciuk suggested that with the Sustainability Coordinator position the board ask an open-ended question, that way they will know whether it is something the Commission is interested in. He

also suggested asking the Commission at Board Night what kind of things they are looking for this board to contribute to.

Liaison Yaciuk went on to review other items for recommendation in the annual report such as biosolids and partnerships with FLP. Member Stephens expresses concerns with item number one on the annual report, about biosolids and recycling. Member Cordova revisits the Sustainability Coordinator, and suggests they change the wording to “The City to hire a Sustainability Coordinator” to make it a strong recommendation. Members then went on to discuss the wording of the recommendation regarding biosolids to add in the word “safe” and “supporting the county’s efforts”. Member Stephens mentioned the item in the annual report regarding the replacement of water fountains, and the wording to be clear that the replacement will be to fill a bottle and keep an actual fountain. Liaison Yaciuk asked if the board is happy with these changes that a motion be passed to approve the annual report. On a motion by Member Cordova, seconded by Member Johnson to approve the annual report as amended, passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda Flynn introduced herself as partner of the Cultural Planning Group that specialize in Public Art Master Plans for cities both big and small across the United States. The Cultural Planning Group is currently working on Master Plans for 4-5 cities within Florida, she went on to speak about her team members Rosario and David Saunders who is based out of California and will be advising with this Master Plan from afar. Linda Flynn spoke about their company’s experience and how they have seen a resurgence in Public Art in the last 7-8 years and they had just finished a Master Plan for the City of Naples.

Linda Flynn also mentioned in St Petersburg they did a public arts piece by Janet Echelman an artist from the Tampa area. The City of Tampa raised 2.1 million dollars for this art piece that is on display at the St Petersburg pier, the artists inspiration came from a trip she took to Portugal and fishing nets. Linda Flynn went on to explain that a public art collection needs to have the diversity of thought, diversity of art and artists. Ms. Flynn mentioned a project that Broward County will be working on, which is a light installation with bridges in the county.

She also mentioned some local artists including Cliff Garten and Xavier Cortada, and Eco Artist, who worked on a project in South Florida which was to help educate the community about rising sea levels. Member Cordova asked is Ms. Flynn was already retained by the City of Pembroke Pines, Ms. Flynn replied yes, they will be working on a 5-7 year plan together with the city. Ms. Cordova asked if Ms. Flynn was there to recommend art, Ms. Flynn responded that no, they are there to provide the framework for the City, but ultimately decisions are left up to the city. Chair Tewari asked if they will be getting any feedback from local artists, Ms. Flynn replied yes, they are starting to work with different art organizations and design communities.

Member Stephens gave a brief presentation about the Florida Right to Clean Water. Member Stephens reads an article she wrote that was published in the Miami Herald. She encourages members to sign a petition to support the amendment to create the right to healthy water. Member Stephens mentioned the effects of pollution in Florida's rivers and waterways. Member Stephens concludes by asking members if this board will support her in this project, should she bring it to the Commission. Member Johnson mentioned she would like to do some more research before committing to the support of the amendment. Vice Chair Marcos suggests that they revisit it at the next meeting once members can do their own research.

Liaison Yaciuk mentions that the next meeting of the board and Board Night fall close together and if they would like to skip next meeting, Member

Cordova asks about the July recess and suggests they keep the scheduled meeting as is.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Vice Chair Marcos, seconded by Member Tripathi to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Lafrance
Board Secretary

APPROVED: