

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PORT ORANGE
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE – CITY HALL
2ND FLOOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
February 26, 2018 AT 5:15 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Macaluso at 5:15 p.m.

Present: John Macaluso, Chairman
Newton White
Philip Klema
Kristine Cunningham
Derek LaMontagne

Absent: Nancy Vaughn, Vice Chairwoman (Excused)
via Phone Conference
Danielle Elwood

Also Present: Deanna Massey, Administrative Assistant
Jake Johansson, City Manager
Margaret Tomlinson, Construction and Engineering Manager
Briana Conlan-King, Planner
Shannon Bungart, Special Events Coordinator

Motion was made by Member Lamontagne to accept Vice Chairwoman Vaughn via telephone conference, Seconded by Member White. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. House Bill on Tree Trimming

Chairman Macaluso asked board members if they all had a chance to review the house Bill on tree trimming.

Vice Chairwoman Vaughn spoke about bill and stated she called the Senator about her concerns.

Chairman Macaluso asked Mr. Johansson if anyone on City Council is following this bill.

Jake Johansson, City Manager, stated all of the City Council members are following this bill actively.

Chairman Macaluso stated that as an Advisory Board, he doesn't see any reason to take any action on this matter.

Mr. Johansson stated the reason he sent this bill to Chairman Macaluso was because he wanted to make sure they communicate with one another. He wants to make sure the Board knows what is going on.

Chairman Macaluso summed up the item by saying they still have time to give their opinions to the state.

Mr. Johansson stated Council has already weighed in and does not support the bill.

Motion was made by Member Newton to move to voice their opposition to house bill 521, Seconded by Member LaMontagne.

Member White moved to amend his motion to oppose the bill and support the Council's opposition to support bill 521, Seconded by Member LaMontagne. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Future meeting times

Chairman Macaluso lead a discussion about future meeting times, and time limits. Members all stated they are available to meet during daytime hours before 5:00pm. He would like to meet each month, at 5:15 for the next fiscal year if possible.

During the next meeting on April 24th future times will be revisited.

4. Tree Ordinance Suggestions submitted by Derek LaMontagne

Member Lamontagne presented an overview of the Tree Ordinance packet included with the agenda.

Member White stated that the tree mitigation fund bank was used to buy Palm Trees at Riverfront Park, he doesn't think the funds were meant for that purpose.

Mr. Johansson explained what the tree mitigation bank was meant for.

Member White suggests they put limits on what the money is being spent on.

Member Lamontagne would like to create a rule against the practices of clear cutting and slash and burn techniques.

Mr. Johansson weighed in on clear cutting, and why it is used. He explained that there is not much space left to build on. He mentioned one of the issues with build to suit is you have to raise the level of the entire development up.

Member Lamontagne would like to create a new class of trees called nuisance trees. He also would like exemption rules during a hurricane situation.

Sandy Habali, citizen, presented a list of native trees to the board.

Member Lamontagne would like to require all development projects to provide a pre-development tree survey.

Margaret Tomlinson, Construction and Engineering manager, clarified the current tree surveys that are required. All subdivisions are required to go to Council.

Mr. Johansson explained the cost anticipated with the tree surveys.

Chairman Macaluso stated the purpose of this agenda item was to get everyone's ideas out on the table to discuss.

Member LaMontagne would like a section on environmental impact included in developmental projects.

Mr. Johansson stated the codes are written to reflect and meet environmental impact.

Member Lamontagne would like to create a Tree Ordinance to collect revenue from clearing the trees.

Mr. Johansson stated the money in the fund is used for forestry stuff, the general fund does not touch this.

Member Lamontagne would like to see funds moved into the tree bank.

Mr. Johansson will find out the exact name of the fund, but cannot combine the funds together, as they need to be kept separate.

Member Lamontagne would like the tree ordinance to determine how the money in the tree bank is spent.

Mr. Johansson doesn't think a tree ordinance is the best way to go, but can report to the EAB quarterly.

Member Lamontagne would like to change the 1 tree per 2500 S.F of lot area to 1 tree per 1500 S.F.

Ms. Tomlinson will be contacting Ormond Beach to discuss this and find out what they have in place.

Member Lamontagne discussed making the tree bank available online at all times for the public to view.

Member Lamontagne would like the City to consider a resolution not allowing palm trees as replacement trees.

Member White inquired about a tree ordinance about a dead tree in a neighbor's yard. Mr. Johansson stated they could do some research into such a tree ordinance.

5. Harbor Oaks Initiatives Update

Chairman Macaluso stated he was not familiar with this at all prior to reviewing this information. He would like to invite Dr. Trip to the next meeting to discuss these initiatives.

Vice Chairwomen Vaughn stated this is very positive, and it is a great natural solution.

Mr. Johansson said this is what EAB can do.

Member Lamontagne provided an update on the tree planting, he has the seedlings for the City for the Earth Day celebration.

Shannon Bungart, Parks and Recreation Special Events Coordinator, talked about the Earth Day/ Arbor Day celebration and the theme of it this year. There will be some events such as presentations from The Marine and Science Center, kid's crafts, paddle boarding, yoga, & recycling. The celebration will be taking place at the Riverwalk Park on Sunday April 22nd from 9:00-2:00 p.m. Citizens may direct all questions to David Hunt who is organizing the event.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Ms. Habali made a suggestion to remove the word "native" from the list of approved trees. She provided two documents, Texas Phoenix Palm Decline, and FL Exotic Pest Plant Councils 2017 list of invasive plant Species.

Motion was made by Member Vaughn to remove the word "native" on the next revision of the land development code, Seconded by Member Cunningham. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Habali would like to have all category 1 and category 2 invasive plants removed from the list.

Ms. Tomlinson made a suggestion to get some feedback from more stakeholders in this area.

D. BOARD COMMENTS –

Member Lamontagne would like to hold another special meeting before the Earth Day Celebration. He would also like to have skype available for the board members in place of phone conferences.

Member Cunningham asked about progress on the trees being moved from the medians.

Ms. Tomlinson asked for some suggestions from the board.

Member White made a suggestion to use the retention pond on Spruce Creek Road.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE

6. Next Meeting Date: April 24, 2018

7. Items for Next Agenda

Future meeting times

Member LaMontagne suggestions that were presented

Dr Trip, Harbor Oaks Initiative (tentative)

Texas Phoenix Palm Decline

FL list of invasive plant species

Discuss possible opening on the board / Member absences

F. ADJOURNMENT- 7:12 p.m.



Chairman Macaluso