

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PORT ORANGE  
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE – CITY HALL  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA  
JULY 23, 2018 AT 5:15 P.M.

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

Present: John Macaluso, Chairman  
Philip Klema  
Kristine Cunningham  
Newton White  
Joseph Fazzie  
Nancy Vaughn

Absent: Derek LaMontagne (Excused)

Also Present: Deanna Massey, Administrative Assistant  
Margaret Tomlinson, Construction and Engineering  
Manager

## **B. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

### 2. Consideration of January 23, 2018 Minutes

*Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2018 was made by Member White, and Seconded by Member Klema Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

### 3. Finalization of the Tree Ordinance Resolution

Tim Burman, Community Development Director, stated the City has prepared a chart for the Board to look over and would like to gather some input from the Board.

Margret Tomlinson, Construction and Engineering Manager, stated the tree ordinance that the City uses today was developed in the mid 90's. The City's current code is 1 tree per 2500 square feet of a lot area. The City is looking for greater flexibility for lots 5000 square feet or less. Ms. Tomlinson spoke on the tree survey and buffer requirements for subdivisions. The City would like to maintain a 15% tree preservation in buffers and preservation areas. The City doesn't currently collect mitigation on trees greater than 6"

in buffers and recommends all specimen trees to be mitigated. Ms. Tomlinson asked for recommendations or a consensus from the Board as each item is looked at.

The Board Members all agreed with the staff suggestions.

Mr. Burman stated the City will do a little research into increasing tree canopy.

Member Klema commented about construction sites and how the workers and their vehicles can affect the trees.

Jake Johansson, City Manager, stated the City will do some research into construction sites in Port Orange and how many trees may have been affected.

Ms. Tomlinson spoke on the route system of the trees and the drip lines.

Mr. Johansson asked the Board Members what their intent is on the topic of no clear cutting and slash and burn for large tracts of land.

Chairman Macaluso replied that he believes the intention of the Board is to protect the trees.

Member White commented that he thinks the City has done a very good job to make sure the trees are protected and doesn't know how he would improve the current process.

Vice Chair Vaughn questioned if clear cutting and maintaining the buffers is the only way to do things or is there any way to change how the City is doing things.

Mr. Johansson said the City can talk to developers about making some of wooded areas in developments spottier.

The Board Members agreed with the staff suggestions on maintaining the 15% tree preservation in buffers.

Ms. Tomlinson stated the City needs to do further investigation and research as to establishing a new class of tree 'nuisance trees' that was suggested by the Board Members.

Member White would like the City to be able to do something about dead trees on private property.

Vice Chair Vaughn doesn't feel that the City or the tax payers should be responsible for trees on private property.

Member Fazzie stated if the property is part of an HOA the City can differ to the HOA to handle the nuisance tree(s).

Mr. Johansson would like to talk with the police department to see about getting an unsafe tree code violation established.

The board members consented to doing further research into dead or nuisance trees.

Ms. Tomlinson stated that the City's current code requires all sites to provide a tree survey. She stated that staff reports related to development will provide an environmental impact summary table to go before Planning Commission and City Council. Staff will provide the EAB an updated account balance at each regularly scheduled meeting. The current balance is \$2,714.

Mr. Johansson would like to meet the Boards requirement to make the tree mitigation bank available online to the public to view at all times.

Ms. Tomlinson spoke on residential feedback to maintain the current code for tree replacement and that some residents prefer palms over hardwoods and palms don't require as much root space. Ms. Tomlinson stated palm trees are credited on a 2:1 basis as shade trees are on a 1:1 basis as understory trees.

Member Cunningham mentioned the Board is trying to encourage the use of more native plants as opposed to exotic plants.

Mr. Johansson stated that the City would like to look at a 1:1 basis on historic trees.

Ms. Tomlinson thinks pruning of palm trees would be a great way for the Board to participate with the public via social media and to create items for the City's website. She stated the staff suggests removing the list of shade trees, understory trees, shrubs and ornamentals from LDC and incorporate it as a resolution that the Board can review annually. Ms. Tomlinson stated the wellfield property is actively managed and protected so we have clean water. All revenue collected goes back into maintaining the wellfield/mitigation bank, which includes the wetland and gopher tortoise bank.

Chairman Macaluso asked staff what the next steps are to move on the finalization of the tree ordinance.

Ms. Tomlinson stated that the City is looking at having a joint workshop with the Board and City Council.

The Board members expressed appreciation to staff for information that was prepared and passed out. They stated it was very organized and easy to read.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**D. BOARD COMMENTS**

Member Cunningham stated once the tree ordinance is completed she would like to direct the Board's attention to flooding issues and invasive species.

Vice Chair Vaughn asked about the Board meeting monthly vs. quarterly.

Chairman Macaluso explained the City is looking at the budget to allow for staffing the monthly meeting for the next fiscal year.

Member Fazzie introduced himself to the Board. He stated this was his first meeting and he is excited to be here.

Chairman Macaluso commented on the cell tower item that will be presented to the Planning Commission. He stated there are anticipated health issues on both sides. Chairman Macaluso stated the Environmental Advisory Board was not involved in any lawsuit on the City.

Member Cunningham asked Ms. Tomlinson if there is anyway the City can apply for any of the Amendment One money to purchase land to make a conservation area.

Ms. Tomlinson will have to look into it.

**E. NEXT MEETING DATE**

6. Next Meeting Date: October 22nd, 2018

7. Items for Next Agenda

Riverwalk Environmental issues

Proper palm tree pruning

Environmental summit

List of invasive species

**F. ADJOURNMENT** – 7:24pm



Chairman Macaluso