



# Board of Adjustments Minutes

September 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

## Present

In-person: Robert Trompke (Chair), Michael Clary (Vice-Chair), Jason Johnson, Cathy Sawruk, Tom Sims, Charles Steinberg, Ann Higbie, George Wiggins (Director of Building & Permitting Services), Recording Clerks, Theresa Dunkle, Sofia Chatzidaki, Virtual attendants, Kay Hudson, Craig Oneil.

## City Staff

Ashley Ong, Renata Minoga, Vanessa A. Balta (Sustainability Manager)

## Absent

None

## Call to Order

Robert Trompke (Chair), called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

## Consent Agenda

Motion made by Jason Johnson to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes. Tom Sims Jr. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.

## Staff Updates

George Wiggins (Director of Building & Permitting Services) announced his retirement. He spoke about Vanessa's Presentation with enthusiasm.

George Wiggins announced that Renata Minoga (Code Analyst Inspector & Building & Permitting Manager) will be staff liaison with the Board of Adjustment. Theresa Dunkle, Code Analyst/Inspector, will be assisting with Sofia Chatzidaki. Also, he introduced Vanessa A. Balta the Sustainability Manager to speak regarding the Sustainability Action Plan.

Vanessa spoke about the Sustainability Action Plan update. This Plan impacts Community and Local Government Operations. She reviewed the 2021 updated Sustainability Action Plan with the Board Members. She also mentioned that the plan establishes metrics to be verified over the next 5 years. The Plan also incorporates research that they have done working with neighbors within the state of Florida as well as the South East U.S.

Mr. Charles Steinberg had a question regarding the meaning of sustainability.

Vanessa A. Balta responded it's using resources sustainably so they will be available for future generations. The City of Winter Park passed a resolution last year that prohibits plastic bags, plastic straws and any Styrofoam products from city facilities. There is also a recognition program that is being used to recognize all businesses for going green, voluntarily. The city cannot impose single-use product policy on private property, due to state pre-emption.

Vanessa stated that one of their actions is, working with the Planning and Zoning Department when the comprehensive plan update comes up. The city received recognition as a Sol-Smart Gold designated city. The city adjusted the fees for solar installations applying fixed rate instead of a valuation rate as an incentive for solar adoption. The division continues to try identify ways to make it easier for people to go solar as an incentive for solar adoption.

Mr. George Wiggins spoke regarding sustainability and gave examples. The department is very much involved through codes and through the enforcement codes that are related to energy.

Vanessa A. Balta, continued her presentation for the Sustainability Action Plan. They hope to work with the Building Department to provide annually green building best practices education to building professionals and residents.

Cathy Sawruk, suggested a program that will be working with realtors to provide trees to residence that would help the effort.

Vanessa A. Balta, responded that to ensure a sustainable tree canopy it is important that residents maintain and plant trees on private properties in addition to planting on public property. The department is looking at a program that will deliver trees to residents and there is going to be a GPS to know where the tree was located. This program is included in the action plan that they are hoping will be approved by the city commission, because it will allow them to increase the number of trees on private properties.

Cathy Sawruk added that realty community is a great resource for people that would promote this kind of program.

Vanessa A. Balta agreed with Cathy's recommendation and hopes that the city commission will approve the program. City of Orlando already is using this program.

Robert Trompke (Chair) suggested that City of Winter Park needs more variety and larger canopy trees.

Vanessa A. Balta, stated that the Urban Forestry team recognize the importance of diversity in the city's trees, however there is a very loud voice of residence that wants oaks. Vanessa agrees that City of Winter Park needs more variety and larger canopy trees.

Vanessa A. Balta also spoke regarding how to increase public awareness of Florida-friendly landscaping and landscaping irrigation regulations. For example, for our residents, the water utility has a smart irrigation controller rebate, which basically allows residents to control their irrigation system with their phone. They are trying to promote this through social media and Winter Park magazines. It would be a great idea to promote this through the real estate community too, because when residents buy a house they need to know that this irrigation system benefit will be available through the City of Winter Park and it will help encourage the sustainability.

Cathy Sawruk suggested that realtors should provide info and educate the homeowners with what the City of Winter Park provides when it comes to sustainability, at home closing.

Robert Trompke (Chair), recognized Mr. George Wiggins (Director of Building & Permitting Services).

George Wiggins (Director of Building & Permitting Services), thanked the Board Members for the wonderful cooperation they had through all these years.

## **Citizen Comments**

No public comments or questions.

## **Action Items**

No action items brought forward.

## **Public Hearings**

No action items brought forward.

## **Findings**

## **Action**

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.