



Keep Winter Park Beautiful and Sustainable Advisory Board Virtual Regular Meeting

Minutes

March 16, 2021 at 11:45 a.m.

Present

KWPB&S Advisory Board Members: Carey Bond, Clark Sprinkel, Ellen Wolfson, Rosemary Salow, Stephen Pategas
City of Winter Park Staff: Kris Stenger, Sustainability Manager; Vanessa Balta, Sustainability Planner; Agnieszka Tarnawska, Sustainability Assistant

Absent

Danielle Flipse, Ben Ellis

Meeting called to order

Ellen Wolfson called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Green Business Recognition Program

The Board recognized new Green Businesses Park Smiles Dentistry at the Silver-level and PCE Investment Bankers at the Bronze-level.

Approval of minutes

Motion made by Stephen P to approve February 16, 2021 minutes. Rosemary S. seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as revised.

Citizen Comments

None.

Staff Report

Vanessa B. shared the advertising proofs for Winter Park Magazine and the Park Press which both featured the Earth Day Video Series and Waste Collection Event. She also provided an update on the Sustainable Action Plan 2020 Report which should be ready for the board's review soon.

Kris S. provided an update the EV Readiness ordinance, which passed second reading. However, the Florida Building Code only allows for one technical building code amendment every six months, the effective date will be in June.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN

None.

3. INFORMATIONAL

Earth Day 2021

Vanessa B. provided an update on the Earth Day Video series beginning on Thursday April 22nd (Earth Day). She will be recording an introduction video and each week, for a month, new videos will be released. So far, videos include a Tesla test-drive video from the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, sustainable pest management from Roi Levin, and Florida Friendly Landscaping and Attracting Wildlife from UF/IFAS Extension offices. The interns are working on captioning the videos to ensure that the subtitles are correct and ADA-compliant.

Ellen W. recommended approaching E2 Homes for the sustainable building topic area. Rosemary S. has a contact for them and will follow up. Ellen W. also suggested a video on the evolution of energy efficient lightbulbs, possibly inviting local Light Bulbs Unlimited to present. Videos will be released April 22nd, April 29th, May 6th, May 13th, and May 20th. The board did not have a preference on the schedule for releasing the videos.

Sustainability Action Plan Update Discussion

The Board will be meeting with the Utilities Advisory Board later this month. Vanessa B. provided an update on the community survey. As of March 15th, there has been eighty-one responses. Responses came from the Backyard Biodiversity Day back in October, the Sustainability Program website and e-blasts. The survey will also be in the Winter Park Update, which will be sent out to residents this month. In the future, it will be included in the utility bill, on the e-kiosks on Park Ave, on social media, and advertised at the signage collection event on March 22nd.

As of now, about seventy percent of the responses to the Sustainability Action Plan have been from Winter Park residents. About thirty-two percent have filled out the Sustainability Action Pledge and half are aware of the Sustainable Action Plan. Vanessa created a wordle of which words people had written on the survey for the written question. Most people who took the survey thought recycling, waste, power, solar, and water needed to be included in the plan. Carey B. suggested that the board send the survey out on an email out every month because that method got the most responses.

Green Minute

Stephen P. shared that Orwin Manor received a new little library in their park. One of the librarians from the Winter Park library goes around and restocks all of the little libraries on public property and restocks them with books. Stephen suggested that the board could work with the Winter Park library to either hang flyers or put pamphlets in these little libraries about environmental issues or Earth Day. Vanessa B. will reach out to Jody Lazar at the library.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Rebates

Clark S. asked if there were any updates about the irrigation control and new construction rebates. Vanessa B. has not heard from David Zusi since the last conversation the board had, but she will follow up with him. Clark is interested in allowing irrigation controller rebates for new construction.

Rosemary S. brought up many concerns she has heard about regarding the noise level of gas-powered leaf blowers. She did some research and found that other cities and HOAs have banned them for this reason. Stephen P. brought up that this issue had come up with the Environmental Review Board a few years ago and is still an issue today. Vanessa B. pulled up the city's current policy, which states that there is a restriction on time of use. Vanessa also shared that gas-blowers cause a high level of local gas emissions that include various pollutants. She also shared some examples of restrictions in many cities countrywide and in Florida. Carey B. was wondering if the city could create a rebate for landscaping companies to switch to electric. Rosemary S. suggested that maybe the city phase out the gas-powered leaf blowers, so when the companies replace their blowers, they can buy new electric one. Clark S. brought up the point that the batteries are an extra expense. Stephen suggested a company he had seen that have solar-powered electric batteries for electric blowers. The board will continue to look into this issues and work on it. Kris S. suggested that electric blowers be a part of the Sustainability Action Plan local government operations section. Stephen suggested that the board see how the public and the commissioners respond to pushing this and maybe creating an ordinance later.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Action Items

Vanessa B. is going to follow up with David Zusi about the Smart Controller rebates and Jody Lazar about using the little libraries

Rosemary S. will reach out to E2 Homes for an Earth Day video

Ellen W. will reach out to Lightbulbs Unlimited for an Earth Day video

Vanessa B. will include goals about switching from gas-powered to electric blowers in the Action Plan

Stephen P. made a motion to adjourn at 12:47 p.m., seconded by Rosemary S. The next work session is March 31st at 11am. Next meeting is April 20, 2021.

Evaluate Meeting

What Worked/What Didn't Work:

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa A. Balta
Recording Secretary



Approved by Board on April 20, 2021