Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024 at 11:45 AM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present
Becky Distad, Ben Ellis, John Page, Kay Hudson, Stephen Pategas, Sam Stark.

Absent
Mark J. Yonker

Staff Present

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m.

2. **Consent Agenda**

Minutes for December and January will be approved/discussed in the February meeting.

3. **Public Comments (for items not on the agenda):**

Terry Bryant, 1831 Windsor Drive thanked the board for developing KWPB. Ms. Bryant referenced James Webb, Andrew Lu, the planet, World War II, star wars, star trek, Terry Cruz, the paradigm shift, Jane Goodall and Henry Louis Gates Jr. Ms. Bryant further spoke on various topics referring to past and present-day events.

4. **Action Items**
   a. Meeting Schedule - Earth Day January Work Session

Staff presented possible days for Earth day for the board to vote upon. January 22 at 12:00pm, January 29th, January 30th and February 1st at any time.

The work session was scheduled for February 1st from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Motion made by Sam Stark to approve the work session scheduled for February 1st at 11:45 a.m.; seconded by Becky Distad. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

   b. Green School Grant Awards

Staff distributed a spreadsheet overviewing the selected schools to receive the Green School Grant Award. The board voted for an amount of $5,000 to be allowed for this fund and distributed to the recipients. The following schools applied for funding; Winter Park High School, Methodist School for Early Education, Walden Community School, Lakemont Elementary School, All Saints School and Glenridge Middle School. The funds will be used for a range of activities from greenhouse usage to expanding and protecting pollinator gardens. The board asked a few questions for clarification and discussed the best options for distributing the funds according to the budget.

Motion made by Kay Hudson to fully fund all the projects submitted for the Green School Projects, with the balance of remaining funds going to Lakemont Elementary; seconded by John Page. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

5. Non-Action Items

There were none.

6. Staff Updates

a. Leaf Blower Ordinance Update

Staff are diligently working to finalize the leaf blower Ordinance. The Commission approved the $50 rebate per house hold, which is good for one year. Information regarding leaf blowers and the rebate can be found on the City Website: Natural Resources and sustainability page. Correspondences will be sent via mail, social media, ad's and staff will have staff will have flyers on hand to distribute to residents. Staff are planning an energy lawn demonstration for residents and electric leaf blowers will be present.

b. Earth Day

Earth day will include a energy lawn, electrical leaf blowers, the EV car show, Suntech and vendors from previous events. Further details will be presented during the work session on February 1st. Staff have arranged their first meeting with the Center for Health Well Being to discuss logistics. A brief discussion ensued.

c. Feasibility Study Update

Staff discussed their progress in the feasibility study after voting it was agreed there would be 80% renewable energy by 2,035, 89% renewable by 2,042, include all the updates on technologies available and 100% renewable energy by 2050. The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that develops a conservative assumption and forecast to assess costs has been completed. Staff are working on ways to reach the additional 20% by promoting environmental change, educating residents on solar power, funding options etc.

d. Zero Waste Update

Staff will be meeting with waste-pro regarding multifamily home recycling on 1/17/2024. An update will be given to the board at a later date.
The Center Street project is going well, nine restaurants, cafes etc are participating in the commercial composting program collected a total of 100,000 pounds of organic waste. To bring awareness to the composting program, a press release will be held in April and possibly an event including the Commission. A brief discussion ensued.

e. Grant Updates

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding was not received due to the state canceling funding. The grant may reopen in the future.
Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Grant funding was received and a successful tree planting event was held in Ward Park. The next tree planting event will be held in February, as well as an event at Howell Branch Preserve.
There was no update given for the EPA Grant.
Regarding the Charging and Infrastructure Discretionary Grant (CFI DOT) staff applied for funding however, no programs in Florida received the grant. The City has hired a grant writer for future use.
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Vulnerability Assessment is ongoing. GIS data was collected for flooding, rainfall, pollution, groundwater and high heat areas.
The REFED Catalytic Grant was an opportunity given by a private company. The grant is for the composite pilot for Center Street, staff asked for $100,000 and did not get accepted. A letter of intent was submitted by staff in hopes to reapply and receive funding.
The Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant affiliates receive approximately $15,000 per agreement the FDOT has with Keep America Beautiful is being finalized, 15,000 programming, lean up supplies, give always, tree planting, restoration projects. Funds must be used by May.
Staff have submitted the application for the Legislative Appropriations Solar Unit at Central Complex. Future updates to come. Staff discussed upcoming grant opportunities as well as partnering with Orange County. The Board gave their input and educated staff on new grants to potentially apply for.

f. Upcoming Events

Liter cleanup on Saturday January 20, 2024 at MLK Park from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Tree planting at Howell Branch February 10th, 2024 from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

7. Board Comments

a. Green Minutes

KWPB was approached by Orange County to apply for the Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation award and received the 2nd place award.

Mr. Stark informed the board and staff on a upcoming international conference taking place at Rollins College. Further details for the event are on earthcharter.org.

b. New Business/Announcements

Ms. Hudson asked staff if the board could facilitate/ assist with the Sustainability Action Plan in any way. Staff will gather more information based off of current projects and give the board an update at the next meeting. A brief conversation followed.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

SAP
Remove grant updates for the next meeting

Motion made by Stephen Pategas to adjourn; seconded by Sam Stark. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Approved by the board on ____________________
/s/ Charisma Lower, Board Coordinator