



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2024 at 11:45 AM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Stephen Pategas, Ben Ellis, John Page, Becky Distad

Absent

Kay Hudson, Sam Stark, Mark Yonker

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby, Sustainability Manager Sara Miller, Sustainability Specialist Mia Brady, Integrated Resource Plan and Clean Energy Program Manager Lisa Vedder, Park Services Manager Josh Nye, Natural Resources and Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor

1. Call to Order

Ben Ellis called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of April 16, 2024 meeting

Mr. Pategas clarified that on page 2, the photo contest is not the fundraiser.

Motion made by Ms. Distad to approve the minutes with the clarification; seconded by Mr. Page. Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

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

4. Action Items

- a. Photo Contest Fundraiser

Ms. Brady stated that the Board needs to vote on whether or not to add a fundraiser to the photo contest. Mr. Pategas stated there was no need to add a fundraiser to the photo contest if funds are not needed. Ms. Eby stated that funds, if collected, would go to the general fund to help in the operation of Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable. Mr. Pategas reasoned that the process to create the fundraiser and sell it is far greater than the amount of funds that will be collected.

Motion made by Mr. Pategas to move the fundraiser aspect of the photo contest to the next meeting; seconded by Ms. Distad. Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

5. Non-Action Items

- a. OCPS Sustainability Manager David Klawitter

Orange County Public Schools Sustainability Manager David Klawitter introduced a request for support in funding the Green School program. He explained the Green School program activities and gave examples of schools involved in the program. The board will vote at the next meeting.

6. Staff Updates

- a. Natural Resources & Sustainability
- Electric Vehicle charging rate update from Lisa Vedder
 - Tree Ordinance Update from Josh Nye
 - Earth Day debrief
 - Election sign recycling update
 - Family night debrief and Killarney Elementary needs
 - Center Street Project
 - Zero Waste
 - Photo Contest & Calendar Fundraiser

The Electric Department's Integrated Resource Plan and Clean Energy Program Manager, Lisa Vedder reviewed the electric vehicle charging rate. Currently, charging in the City is free. The data from the 2023 report revealed that action will need to be taken for overuse. Based on the analysis of overuse, a rate was determined. For use over 3 hours, a surcharge will be imposed, and a parking ticket will be issued. The initiative will go to the Commission next month and by October it could be enacted.

Park Services Manager, Josh Nye gave an update on the tree ordinance revision. A workshop will be done with P & Z at the end of June. After a vote from P & Z in early July, the ordinance revision will go to the Commission for approval. Mr. Nye advised the Board to discuss and submit any recommendations to either P & Z and/or the Commission. The main points of the revision are as follows:

- The Tree Board set a goal of 45% canopy coverage. Staff recommended reversing canopy loss rather than a fixed goal.
- Protected tree species require a removal permit beginning at 4 1/2 feet rather than 9 feet.

- New language in Florida Statute 163.045 allows occupied single family residential property owners to remove trees on their property without a permit if they have proper documentation.
- The City Commission has the final say on appeals to deny tree removal applications
- Sabal Palms are now protected. Staff and the Tree Board recommend creating a special class of trees to be protected that will include bald cypress and live oaks 30 inches and above. The current rate for tree removal permits is \$110 per diameter inch. The special class of tree rate will be tripled.
- The Tree Board voted to make mitigation and compensation for tree removal permits on commercial properties not count towards the minimum landscape package.

Mr. Pategas voiced his opinion on the new ordinance, stating that it does not appear to be sustainable nor ready for P & Z. Mr. Pategas as a landscape architect, offered to review the ordinance with Mr. Nye. Mr. Nye welcomed suggestions and recommendations from all Board members. Mr. Pategas recommended revision of the landscape ordinance and discussion on tying in solar panels and planting edibles with shade canopy.

Ms. Brady stated the Earth Day event was a success. It incorporated the Run With The Trees event, the Green School grant, electric lawn companies and was attended by at least 2000 people.

Ms. Miller updated the Board on the election sign recycling program advising storage of the signs is at capacity.

Ms. Brady reviewed working with 4Roots to encourage families to take advantage of their mobile food market.

Ms. Miller stated that the Center Street project was presented to the Commission. Wastepro has renewed their contract with the City. Natural Resources and Sustainability is working with CRA and Code Enforcement to keep the area clean with the dumpsters and slotted dumpsters for cardboard will be added to the Center Street project.

Ms. Brady updated the Board on the Zero Waste composting program which involves partnering with O'Town Compost to remove the food waste. Currently, there are 13 participating restaurants and 178,831 pounds of food waste.

Ms. Brady presented the flyer for the photo contest rules and explained the highlighted information regarding the fundraiser and the judging. The Board discussed the term manmade objects and decided that who will judge is not necessary to know to get the flyers completed.

b. Upcoming Events

Ms. Miller advised that thirty people attended the composting class and announced the upcoming events.

Introduction to Composting Class - 5/15 6pm @ WP Library

Lakes Event - 5/18 9am @ Lake Chelton

Lakes Event - 6/8 9am @ Lake Bell

Paddleboard cleanup - 6/15 9am @ Lake Maitland

Board Appreciation - 6/20 5:30pm @ WP 18

Lakes Event - 6/22 @ Lake Temple and Tuscany on 6/22

Introduction to Vermicomposting Class - 6/27 6pm @ WP Library

7. Board Comments

- a. Green Minutes
- b. New Business/Announcements

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

- a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

Mr. Pategas requested to add three items to the upcoming agenda items

- Update of the landscape ordinance should be pursued by the board in order to address sustainability.
- Finding that the City undergrounding is leaving excess soil and adding sod on top which causing the raising of grades.
- Thirdly, invasive trees were found to be growing in between the sidewalk and the curb.

Motion made by Mr. Pategas to add the landscape ordinance, undergrounding issue and invasive trees in right-of-way to the next agenda; seconded by Mr. Page. Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved by the Board with amendments on June 18, 2024

/s/ Bahiyyah Layton Board Coordinator