



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024 at 11:45 AM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Terry Hotard, Becky Distad, Stephen Pategas, Zeina Matar-Ghantous, Sam Stark, Mark J. Yonker.

Absent

John Page

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby, Sustainability Manager Sara Miller, Sustainability Specialist Mia Brady, Natural Resources and Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor;

1. Call to Order

Stephen Pategas called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of May 21, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Distad to approve the minutes correcting the absences, seconded by Mark Yonkers . Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

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

4. Action Items

- a. OCPS Green School Program Funding

Ms. Miller explained the Green School program to the new Board members and advised that last year the sponsorship amount was \$1k. Ms. Eby explained that the Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Board is funded through fundraising and donations. The current amount in the budget is approximately \$100K.

Motion made by Mark Yonkers to approve a \$1K donation to the OCPS Green School Program; seconded by Ms. Distad.

Resident Gigi Papa commented that she is opposed to the funding, explaining that this appears to be a duplicate program of the Winter Park Library. Ms. Papa advised that the library has sustainability resources available to teachers. Ms. Miller advised that connecting the teachers with available resources and organizations has been difficult.

Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

5. Non-Action Items

6. Staff Updates

Ms. Eby welcomed the new Board members and suggested Board member introductions. Mr. Hotard and Ms. Matar-Ghantous were introduced.

a. Natural Resources & Sustainability

- Undergrounding Review
- Review Landscape Ordinance
- Invasive Trees in the Right of Way
- Green Schools Grant Deliverables
- Photo Contest & Fundraiser
- Zero Waste

At the request of the Board, Interim Utility Director Mourad Belfakih presented the undergrounding update. Discussion ensued on electric undergrounding, electric rates, reliability, and keeping the character of the different neighborhoods in Winter Park by not changing the street lights and curbs. Ms. Matar-Ghantous advised that if changes are to be made with the street lights then the changes should be sustainable. Mr. Belfakih explained the Dark Sky sustainable streetlight initiative that the City will be implementing. Mr. Hotard suggested repair and maintenance on the electric green boxes. Mr. Belfakih continued with the percentage of undergrounding completion, how the undergrounding is installed and displayed before and after pictures. Mr. Pategas requested the policy for removal of excess soil. Mr. Belfakih advised that there was no excess soil with electric undergrounding. Ms. Miller read Ms. Monahan's explanation of erosion control. Ms. Eby advised that she will share concerns with UAB Board.

Ms. Miller advised the attached landscape ordinance should be reviewed and discussed in the next meeting. Ms. Eby suggested a partnership with Planning & Zoning, Natural Resources and Parks regarding the landscape and tree ordinances. Mr. Stark suggested including someone from Rollins in the discussions to update the landscape and tree ordinances.

In response to Mr. Pategas' concern about invasive trees in the right of way, Ms. Miller read a statement from Park Services Manager Josh Nye expressing his opinion that removal of the trees in the right of way would cause canopy loss. If further discussion is needed, Mr. Nye can be contacted directly.

Ms. Brady showed the slides and video of participating Winter Park schools in the Green School Grant program.

Ms. Brady described to the new Board members the Photo Contest that runs through the month of June. Ms. Brady presented the costs to add a fundraising aspect to the photo contest using either calendars or notecards and staff work hours. Ms. Zeina asked to clarify the costs and the purpose. Ms. Eby and Mr. Pategas clarified the fundraising aspect of the photo aspect. Ms. Matar-Ghantous commented that printing calendars is not sustainable and suggested a virtual option of displaying the photos from the contest. The photo contest has had 3 submissions thus far. The photo contest will be judged by the Board. Ms. Brady will share the list of Board fundraisers at the next meeting.

Zero waste continues on Center Street with the restaurant composting program. An organic waste hauler converts the food waste into compost. The current amount of waste collected is 197K pounds.

b. Past & Upcoming Events

- Lakes Event - 6/8 @ Lake Bell
- Paddleboard Cleanup - 6/15 @ Lake Maitland
- Board Appreciation - 6/20 5:30pm @ WP Pines (WP 18)
- Introduction to Vermicomposting Class - 6/27 6pm @ WP Library
- Filth of July Litter Cleanup - 7/6 9am @ Public Safety Building, 500 N Virginia Ave

Ms. Eby invited the Board members to the Board Appreciation event which will be located at the Events Center. The classroom Ballroom Dancing at the Farmers Market fundraiser is coming to an end after almost 30 years. The final dance will be June 25, 2024. Ms. Brady updated the Board on the past events. The Lake bell restoration had 9 participants and planted 500 plants. The paddleboard cleanup at Lake Maitland resulted in 82 pounds of waste.

7. Board Comments

a. Green Minutes

Mr. Pategas explained the meaning of the Green Minutes. If anyone on the Board had an environmental message, they could speak about it for one minute. Ms. Distad said on her recent visit to Japan, there were no trash cans on the streets. Eating on the streets was not allowed, resulting in very clean streets. Food was to be consumed at the location where it was purchased.

b. New Business/Announcements

Choosing Chair and Vice Chair will be an action item at the next meeting

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Approved by the board on July 16, 2024
/S/Bahiyyah Layton Board Coordinator