



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Minutes

September 20th, 2022, at 11:45 a.m.

Commission Chamber
401 S Park Ave, Winter Park

Present

KWPB&S: Stephen Pategas, Catherine (Kay) Hudson, Carey Bond, Ben Ellis, Rishona S Teres

City Staff: Gloria Eby; Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability, Sara Miller; Sustainability Manager, Mia Brady; Sustainability Specialist, Johnny Miller; Event Manager, Victoria Tabor; Admin Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Guest: Laura Gustafson-Hullinger (Sustainability Program Coordinator at Rollins)

(1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Ben Ellis at 11:56 AM.

(2) Consent Agenda

Ben Ellis motioned to approve the August Meeting Minutes. Carey Bond Seconded and the motion passed.

(3) Public Comment

Mikayla Miller, Community Outreach Librarian from the Winter Park Library, provided updates on library projects. Fall Season at the seed library started on September 1st and they are roughly halfway through their available seeds. They started outreach for the program at the Community center during the first week of September and will be setting up plants as part of their display this week. Mikayla mentioned being excited for the upcoming EV car show and wanted to provide a map of all the FREE EV charging stations in Winter Park. However, a map will already be available at the KWPB table during the event. The month of September is also "Library card sign up month" and residents are entered to win a prize if they sign up this month.

(4) Staff Updates

No staff items.

(5) Non-Action Items

Mia Brady introduced guest, Laura Gustafson-Hullinger, who is the program coordinator for Environmental Studies Department and the Sustainability Program at Rollins College. She previously worked at the Orlando Science Center and is passionate about sustainability and education. Gloria Eby is excited for further partnerships with the college.

Sara Miller provided updates on the election sign recycling initiative. They are waiting on one more load from New Cycle. So far, 3,020 pounds have been diverted from the landfill and around 6,000 signs have been collected. There is one more load at NuCycle, which is currently being processed. The next meeting before the general election is scheduled for October 6th and Kay Hudson will provide insight. In the future, Winter Park may work with a local company called Purecycle to recycle the election signs. This company could be more expensive because currently the election signs do not have to be bundled when brought to the facility, but at teracycle, they would have to be. If the logistics are too complicated, then the City will stick with

Nucycle. Sara will provide more data and further updates at the October meeting. Because of the program's popularity, it is becoming a regional initiative, with Seminole and Volusia County participating as well.

Sara provided more Sustainability Action Plan update. She has not finished the updates in the 2021 version, but has had a hard time tracking down information from past employees. Some of the formulas are not provided or explained, which is part of the challenge. Sara and her team have met with the City's GIS manager to form a new plan so that in the future, he knows exactly what data our Department will need. This will hopefully make things smoother in the future. Sara did express concerns about how easily the public, and especially people who don't understand what sustainability is, will be able to comprehend the SAP. Gloria informed the board that the City Commission work session is set for October 13th and 1 PM and will be held in the Commission Chambers. Although the Commissioners can't vote on passing the SAP at that session, they will have the chance to review the document with NR&S team. After this session, hopefully, the SAP will then make it to a Commission meeting where it will be fully adopted.

There are still discussions about adding topics to the SAP, such as a smoking ban within the City's parks. Winter Garden has already done this at their parks, and because smoking negatively impacts air quality, it would be a useful addition to the SAP. Although Gloria thinks we should aim for designated smoking areas within parks first, as opposed to an outright ban, Stephen Pategas suggested that the board ask for a full ban and see how the commission responds. There is overall support from the board for moving forward with this ban.

Another addition, that would apply to City staff internally, would be a shift to four-day work weeks. This could only be offered to certain employees. People working in customer service or the Parks Department, for example, would still be required to work the fifth day. This switch would represent a decrease in transportation emissions, in both Winter Park and central Florida. Ben Ellis was the only board member who was hesitant about this transition.

Ben expressed his concerns with the SAP not being done before the work session and Gloria clarified that the SAP needs to be distributed to the City Commissioners a week prior to October 13th. Sara is supposed to have the document done by the end of the week. Kay asked about the board's involvement at the work session and Gloria encouraged board attendance. Many members shared that they will be out of town that week, but they can attend virtually.

Feasibility study update have first kick off meeting this Monday with QUANTA going over scope of services. Gloria will continue to provide updates in the upcoming board meetings as this study starts and progresses. Rollins is invited to the meeting and will be an outside representative of the study and will help with verification.

The city building energy efficiency study is experiencing a slow start due to the contracted company, 15 light years, undergoing staffing issues. This is also impacting our residential energy audit and rebate program as well. Currently, the city is selecting which buildings will be audited based on cost.

The city received a grant from DEP for \$100,000 which is partially fund the Climate resiliency study. The study has a two-year window to be complete and will kick off during the start of the new year. New energy efficiency and conservation grants are coming out of the Energy Department and the City's Grant administrator will help to try to get some of this funding. The board should be aware of these grants.

The *Fix it, Don't Pitch It* event results were provided by Mia. There were 10 volunteer fixers, including Vice Mayor Todd Weaver, and the public brought 357.3 pounds of material. She noted that there was discrepancy between how much was brought in and how much was actually fixed. This was due to many of the participants not knowing how to use a QR code on their phones. The event did start conversations about waste diversion.

This Saturday, September 24th, is the first Sustainability Fair and EV car show. There will be roughly 30 vehicles on display. Groups like the Central Florida Electric Vehicle Association will be there, as well as the world's only electric tow boat. Vendors will have booths, including KWPB.

Sara provided an overview of the *Get Hooked* event which will take place on October 1st at MLK park. The Sustainability interns have been working on education materials for the event, focusing specifically on water conservation. Johnny reiterated that the goal of the event is to teach families about fresh water fishing. Bait and poles will be provided, and there will be raffles as well.

Advertising for the 2023 Green School Grants has been published on behalf of KWPB. The deadline to apply is December 30th, 2022 at 5 PM. The schools who received the grant from 2022 have been followed up with and they are sharing their projects. Sara shared the general clean-up advertisement that KWPB has for the self-guided cleanups with kits. The next organized clean up event will highlight the recognized Green Businesses over the weekend of October 14th-16th.

Stephen provided information about the America in Bloom program. He explained that two advisors go into a community for two days and evaluate the city based on various metric. KWPB would bring the advisors around Winter Park so they could judge community vitality, flowers, landscaped areas, urban forestry, celebrating heritage, environmental efforts, and overall impression. Last time Winter Park took part in the program, we were recognized for our environmental efforts. The board would need to provide housing for the judges. In the past the Alfond provided a room, but they are under renovations, so that might not be an option. A vehicle would also be necessary to take the advisors around Winter park. America Blooms is a great way to promote Winter Park and receive recommendations for further improvement. Registration is in January and the judges would arrive at the end of April. In the past, their visit overlapped with a volunteer recognition event where local organizations were invited and could nominate a volunteer for recognition. This is something that would need to be reinstated as it was shut down due to COVID. Gloria asked if the schedule would conflict with Earth Day events, but it was concluded that it probably would not. Everyone on the board agreed to proceed with this.

Gloria gave a presentation on the Muscovy Duck Removal Program, emphasizing that the ducks are an invasive species. The Lakes Division is working on an ongoing campaign to educate citizens about the invasive species and why it's important not to feed water fowl. There has been residential concerns over the Muscovy ducks being aggressive and a nuisance. As an invasive, they out native water fowl and the removal process has received negative press since it is an emotional issue. Lakes and Parks board are to vote on the matter of the removal program, but Gloria wants the KWPB board to be involved in the decision. The integrated management plan includes public education through signs, flyers, and social media. The removal will follow FWC guidelines. Stephen made a motion to support the Muscovy duck removal and Kay seconded. No one opposed and the motion passed.

(6) Action Items

OCPS 9th Annual Green Schools Banquet happening on October 20th and Jenny Jaegal is in attendance of this meeting via online.

Jenny Jaegal, who is the Sustainability Coordinator for Orange County Public Schools and attended the August meeting, joined the meeting virtually to provide further information about their Green Schools Grant. Sara Miller provided the KWPBS budget for this year and explained how much money had been saved from the Earth Day event. The department had only used about \$5,000 of \$18,000 allocated funds. Ben Ellis asked about the income side of the budget, and reminded the board that, last year, the City took away the \$25,000 because of COVID. Gloria responded that she does not have the specific dollar amount available in terms of income, but the proposed budget has a direct contribution from the City. Due to staff turnover, there are also some expenses, such as advertising for the recycling mailer, that were never used. Because of an increase in funding from the City and leftover money from Earth Day, there is a budget cushion. Rishona Teres asked about possibility of surprise expenses and Gloria said that there could be events or programs that the board would want to participate in unexpectedly. Kay Hudson reiterated that she wants Winter Park to be a leader among municipalities in supporting sustainability and schools. Stephen Pategas wanted to see the board's income so he could get the whole picture and he thought that if KWPBS is going to put \$1,000 into a county program, then the board should contribute more to our own grant program. Ben Ellis said that he would rather just keep the funding local. He doesn't agree with having two separate programs, a county and a Winter Park one. There were also concerns about the money being used for the banquet instead of for the actual schools. Jenny clarified that the funding received from sponsors only goes to the schools and not

to anything else, such as the banquet. Carey Bond made a motion to give \$1,000 to OCPS for their Green Schools Grant and Kay Hudson seconded. Everyone was in favor except for Ben and the motion passed.

(7) Public Hearings

No Public Hearings.

(8) Board Comments and Green Minute

None.

(9) Adjournment

Stephen Pategas made a motion to adjourn and Kay Hudson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM

Minutes approved the board on 10/18/2022.
/s/ Recording Secretary Victoria Tabor