



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Virtual Minutes

July 19, 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, Mark J Yonker

Absent: 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: Mikayla Miller; Community Outreach Librarian - Winter Park Library

(1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Kay Hudson at 11:48 AM.

(2) Consent Agenda

Stephen Pategas motioned to approve the June Meeting Minutes. Carey Bond Seconded and the motion passed.

(3) Staff Updates

Kay Hudson is working with Sara Miller and Mia Brady on the sign recycling sign initiative. Winter Park is collaborating with Orange County and the City of Orlando on this initiative and have already had two meetings. In these meetings, they have been discussing how to stay consistent with messaging and social media. Kay, Sara and Mia have reached out to half of the candidates that are running in the election, asking for contact information so they can share a social media package with them. This package will come from the Winter Park communications team and provide details about where the drop off locations for the signs will be. Kay and the League of Women Voters may still be handing out post-it notes with a QR code on them, which links to information about the initiative. These can be used as reminders to the voters for what to do with their signs after the election. Kay would be using League of Women Voter funds to pay for these post-it notes. The League of Women voters may host micro drop-off locations at local churches in addition to the ones in Winter Park, Orlando, and Orange County. End of July is the cutoff for getting this initiative organized, as the primary election is the second week of August. Kay shared that Seminole and Volusia County also have this program in place. In Seminole County, the League of Women Voters has been in contact with the political parties about sign recycling, but Kay has not been able to reach the political parties in Orange County. Stephen Pategas suggested that Kay, Sara, and Mia reach out to the supervisor of elections to post information on their website. EV Car Show - September 24th. The event has been registered on driveelectricweek.org and a Kia EV6 has registered so far. Mia Brady has been working on this event. Stephen shared that he has a neighbor who might be interested in bringing his Tesla. Commissioner Weaver has also agreed to bring his Tesla and Mia is going to reach out to his neighbor who brought their car to Earth Day. For the Sustainability Fair aspect of the event, there will be two city tables, one for KWPB and one for the Green business Recognition Program and the Sustainability Division as a whole. Mikayla Miller will have a table with the Library to show off their seed bank. 15 Lightyears, who performs residential energy audits within the city, and ChargePoint, who runs the city's EV charging stations, will also have tables at this event. Johnny Miller shared that the event was going to be held in the municipal parking lot across the street from the farmer's market but, after talking with Jason Seely at the Parks Department, the event will now be held in the West

Meadow. This way, the vent will be directly next to the market and attract a wider audience. That way, the parking lot won't have to be closed and people will not have to cross the street to get to the EV show. The event can also be advertised at the farmer's markets leading up to the 24th. Kay suggested that the City should provide one of their EV vehicles for the event and wants to know why the city doesn't have more electric vehicles. Johnny has reached out to the Building and Permitting Department and they gave us a verbal agreement to use a vehicle. He needs to follow up with them regarding the event details. Stephen and Mark Yonker both have potential contacts for this event.

Department Facebook page is live. It is the Winter Park Natural Resources and Sustainability page and already have four posts. The first post is our staff photo and introduces the department. There are also posts about our latest clean-up as well as one about removing invasive species in our lakes. The Facebook Page will be instrumental in marketing our department and we will create different "series" for various topics (i.e. solar). The Facebook page will showcase all of our programs, updates, and information for residents to easily comprehend. The department will also be updating the website thoroughly.

Green Schools Grant Updates. Sara shared that we are behind in getting the schools access to their required course but we have reached out to all of the schools that received the grant in the last two weeks. Someone from those five schools will need to take a course from USGBC that is three hours long. They were supposed to have from May to the fall to complete their requirements but because we had not sent out the course details, they now have until October 28th. In the future, we may change the requirement so they would be presenting their project in front of the KWPB board. Currently, they just have to submit their deliverables to our Department. Mia added that because it is currently summer and students are not on campus, it is harder for the schools to get the projects going and we may play with the deadlines in the future. Stephen asked if we are still going to award five grants in the future or if there is a possibility to give more. Sara shared that any school in Winter Park is open to apply for the grant. Gloria said that because all of the projects sounded meaningful, it made sense to split it among those five. Mia shared that each school was awarded roughly two hundred dollars and, in the future, we will need to think about if we want more funds to less schools to maximize impact or if that amount is satisfactory. Sara also said that going forward she would like to check in more with the schools to help them brainstorm meaningful projects, other than just pollinator gardens. She would like to see the schools helping each other figure out sustainable initiatives.

Waste diversion - composting. We have planned to work with O-town compost on the events that we oversee and the Track Shack races. At the July 4th 5K, O-town collected over 432 pounds of compost. And from the board appreciation event, they diverted over 84 pounds. The vendor makes it very easy for us at these events. Charlie from O-town compost is very eager to collaborate with the City and he was also speaking to Alex at the Event Center about helping with more of their events. Johnny mentioned that the waste diversion center at the event was very unique and doable for future events. He thinks it made a very positive impact on the people at the event. He was also very impressed with the caterers and their efforts to be sustainable.

Energy Conservation Program. The department has had 11 audit requests so far and eight have been scheduled. There have been around 5 requests per week. They have also received 3 rebate requests. We had to restock on the audit kits due to demand for the energy audits. The city's communications team is working on getting the information out in the next utility bill. Our department will also be spreading the word on Facebook. Kay asked for clarification about if people who live in the city of Winter Park but don't have the Winter Park utilities can still take part in this program. But the answer is no because the rebate is applied to their bill as a credit. Duke and OUC do offer the same program so everyone has this option. Sara shared that the department will be looking into more rebate options in the future.

Clean-up events. Last weekend, 7/16, there was a tree planting and park clean-up event in Ward Park. Eight Cypress trees were planted and the volunteers collected 60 pounds of trash. The first Recognized Green Business of the year, Cypress Bank, was there to help. A group from Full Sail University was also at the planting and took video content with a professional camera crew, which they will share with us. More clean-ups are being planned as our current goal is one a month. There will be a clean-up in August with a private group, the WP Library with the Teen Library Board. And in October will be the large Green Business Clean-up. Stephen mentioned that the tree planting was a good aspect of the event because of the lasting impact and Mia talked about how the reforestation of that part of Ward Park will happen in phases. Gloria briefly talked about how our department has a focus on restoring and restoring natural areas in Winter Park with places like Ward Park and Howell Branch Preserve. Kay asked about invasive species management in Howell Branch and Gloria shared that over the past two years, spraying has targeted a species called skunk vine and

has unfortunately impacted some native species as well. We will be going in, at some point, to restore those spots by planting natives. That project is currently under public comment and input, but the restoration cannot move forward until there is movement with the trail system project. Gloria explained that this is a “forever” project because it will need to be nurtured and managed forever. Although there have been two major clean-up events, one with the SWAT team where they took out over 250 pounds of trash, there is still lots of litter on the preserve. Kay asked about plans to remove invasive and Gloria clarified that invasive treatments would fall under the restoration category with replanting native species. Engaging the community would be most effective for trash removal instead of removing plants. UFC Ideas for Us was the last group to clean up trash at How Branch. Gloria explained the grant that the Department is using to fund projects for the preserve. Because it is in such a dense urban area, Howell Branch should be recognized as a unique focal point of Winter Park. Residents are concerned about privacy and safety but the commission will have the final say on what happens.

Green Business Recognition Program. A city-wide clean-up is being organized in October that will recognize the businesses that have signed up. Audacity, a local news station, will be helping us promote this event by highlighting our programming on their radio stations.

Rollins College collaboration. Mia is going to campus in August to meet with their Bonner students, who need service hours in order to keep their scholarships. They are interested in clean-ups or other service projects in the future. Mia has also been in contact with their Environmental Studies Administrator about potential interns.

Energy. Staff are waiting to see if one of the existing contracts will suffice for getting the city building energy audits complete. Purchasing has to review and look into legality. Quantum Technologies was selected for the renewable energy contract and the city is just waiting for all the paperwork to go through for that process to start. Sara and Mia have been working with Agnieszka to learn how to conduct the Green House Inventory and all of her training sessions have been recorded. She was contracted by the city to complete the 2021 GHG inventory update. This is an annual recording that will be completed for this current year in January of 2023. This is a really useful way for the department to see where the majority of our city and internal emissions are coming from. Because we have our own utility, we have an advantage over other cities who have to request their information from outside companies, like Orlando with Duke and OUC.

SAP Update. Benchmarking the greenhouse gas emissions will be a part of the updated SAP, which has been a priority for the department. Because there have been many changes with COVID and staffing, the previous Sustainability Action Plan has been thoroughly scrubbed and edited. In the next week or two, the board will be receiving the SAP to review the edits and those will be discussed during the next board meeting. This will be in preparation for the work session with the City Commission on September 29th, where the plan will be presented and hopefully adopted. Kay wanted to know how extensive the changes are to the new plan and how they would be comparing the new edits.

(4) Public Comments (for items not on Agenda)

Mikayla Miller, Community Outreach Librarian, from the Winter Park Library gave the following updates to the board regarding their Maker Day event. At the event, they served over one hundred people between their macramé making class and planting flowers using the seed library. They are working on getting ready for their seed library launch in the fall.

The library has received positive public responses about this program and people want to see it continue to grow. Kay Hudson wants to see more native plant seeds being passed out in the future. The library’s current focus is food sustainability and they use UFIFAS for plant recommendations. Mikayla informed the board that the library will be providing seeds for bush beans (an organic variety), broccoli (an organic variety), collard greens, bell pepper, tomato, cucumbers, basil, thyme, rosemary, and cilantro. They want to be inclusive to everyone by providing seeds that can be grown within a home or in a full garden.

(5) Non-Action Items

Gloria Eby provided updates on the seed library funding. In the last meeting, the board had asked about where the funds stood and where they were being generated from. Funding for the upcoming fiscal year had

been motioned and approved by the board at that time. Staff are moving through the procurement process to get a direct check to pay the Library for the seed replenishment.

(6) Action Items

No Action Items.

(7) Public Hearings

No Public Hearings.

(8) Board Comments and Green Minute

Mark Yonker brought up how expensive EV vehicles are due to supply chain issues and gas prices rising. Kay wants to know if the city is focusing on getting more electric vehicles.

Stephen Pategas made a motion to discuss the city's fleet and to put EV vehicle funding on the next agenda and Carey Bond seconded. The motion passed.

(9) Adjournment

Stephen Pategas made a motion to adjourn and Ben Ellis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM

Minutes approved the board on 08/16/2022.

/s/ Recording Secretary Victoria Tabor