



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Regular Minutes

June 21, 2022, at 11:45 a.m.

Commission Chamber
401 S Park Ave, Winter Park

Present 23:45

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

Absent: Mark J Yonker

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 Ben Ellis at 11:46 AM.

(2) Consent Agenda

Carey Bond motioned to approve the March, April, and May Meeting Minutes. Kay Seconded and the motion passed.

(3) Staff Updates

- a. June 22nd Meet Our Department Presentation and Video
 - i. The Department worked with a private videographer at every event including Earth Day, a tree planting event, a shoreline restoration project
 - ii. Sara Miller invited the board members to attend
- b. Greenhouse gas inventory
 - i. The inventory for 2021 is starting - Agnieszka was hired to complete the 2021 inventory and teach Sara and Mia Brady for the future
 - ii. The inventory will be done by September 29th, which is when the commission will have a work session for sustainability
 1. The overall goal is for the Sustainable Action Plan to become a formal document
- c. EV Car Show - September 24th
 - i. Kay Hudson had requested this event previously and Johnny Miller has been working on organizing it. Johnny chose the Train Station parking lot, as it is right across from the Farmer's Market and that will help with foot traffic. We can also advertise at the Farmer's Market the Saturday before. The time frame should be from around 9am-11am to beat the heat. There will also be other sustainability booths to promote programming.
 - ii. The staff were also interested in offering EV vehicle test drives but Kay mentioned that this could be a liability. Staff will reach out to the City's legal team on this.
 - iii. Kay also brought up the National Drive Electric Week website where the city could register our event. This would help bring in volunteers who have electric cars and spread awareness about the event. Kay also made the point that there are usually many people who are enthusiastic about bringing their Tesla's, but there should be other EV cars as well.
- d. Board Appreciation Event
 - i. First event that is eco-friendly, with the main focus being waste diversion. O-town compost will be at the event to take all food scraps and bio-degradable items from the caterers.

There will be a station in the actual event as well as in the back, in the kitchen. These stations will have bins for trash, compost, and recycling. The recycling bin will be for aluminum cans, glass bottles, and the plastic cocktail cups. Before the event there will be a training for the whole team, other staff, and the caterers. This is the first of many sustainable events in the future.

- e. Natural Resources and Sustainability Department Facebook page
 - i. We are hoping to have the page live by the beginning of July, but the page has been created with the City's Communications team.
 - ii. This page will include all kinds of information such as what the Lakes Division is doing with water sampling, their field work, and their interns as well as what the Sustainability Division is doing with our programming, our interns, our events such as Earth Day, tree plantings, and cleanups. This will also be a good way for the community to know what we are doing and how to get more involved.
 - iii. Orange County Fertilizer Campaign
 - 1. Because it is now summer and the rainy season, we will be using OC's social media education package to post about the Campaign and their messaging. This information will hopefully be attached to utility billing so it gets out to residents
 - 2. Stephen Pategas shared that he and his wife have written an article in the Park Press about this Ordinance that will be published in the next issue.
- f. Energy Conservation Rebate Program
 - i. The program has been started and is live on the website. The City is currently offering two rebates, one for duct repair and one for insulation. The Sustainability Division team will meet with 15 lightyears soon to discuss restarting the energy audits. IT is also helping to create an automated system to process the audits and rebates to make it even more streamline. Utilities will process the rebate as a credit on the customer's utility bill.
- g. Election Sign Recycling for the primary and general election
 - i. There was an initial collection event that happened in February and the marketing materials from that are in storage
 - ii. We will collaborate with the City of Orlando and Orange County for this initiative. We are still waiting for payment from the City of Orlando for shipment of the signs to Nucycle Energy. Orange County is providing waste bins. Sara and Kay, leader of League of Women Voters, are meeting with Orlando and OC during then end of June. Members of the Leagues of Women Voters have volunteered to collect signs and the officials who are running in OC are being made aware so they can help with this program, too. The Communications team is going to help promote this initiative in the news. Kay shared that regionally, Seminole, Volusia, and Brevard County already have implemented this program.
 - iii. Kay also shared that the program has gone really well back in 2020 and that, in Winter Park alone, they had doubled their goal
- h. Public Clean-up Events
 - i. The first public event this coming weekend, Saturday June 25th, at the Baldwin Park Dog Park. This event has been posted on the website for over a month and eight people have RSVP'd. The plan is to first focus on the Dog park area and then move around the lake. The Streets Department is putting a street sign out in front of the clean-up location to inform people passing by the location.
 - 1. Ben asked about if there is a minimum age, and Sara said that kids are welcome as long as their parent is present. She said the only events that might be age restricted could be a shoreline restoration, for example, which would take place in the water.
 - a. Kay asked about invasive removal and litter removal at Howl Branch Preserve and Gloria discussed past water-shed clean-ups, such as with the SWAT team, who removed 260 pounds of trash
 - 2. The next public clean-up July 16th in Ward Park Sara also shared that there is an invasive species removal scheduled in September with Mead Gardens
- i. Green Business Recognition Program
 - i. Mia Brady introduced herself as the City's new Sustainability Specialist and gave updates on restarting the program. She is inviting the green businesses to the EV Car Show to present

their sustainable initiatives. Sara Miller also suggested invited the library to talk about their Seed Library program.

- ii. The program has been paused due to change in staffing, but the program is being restarted.
 - 1. The recognition levels are being reworked so it is easier for the businesses to achieve higher recognition levels
 - 2. There are a number of events coming up for the green businesses including the EV Car Show and a weekend-long clean-up in September
- j. Rollins College Collaboration
 - i. Mia has been working with Rollins to plan a clean-up for their incoming student service day in August
 - ii. Rollins also has a group of students who need service hours and might work more with the Sustainability Division in the fall as either interns or just volunteers
 - iii. Gloria also had a meeting with the Mayor of WP, WP's City Manager, and the President of Rollins to discuss sustainability. This collaboration was focused on the 100% renewable energy contract that the city is moving into. Rollins will be adding a delegate to the board so they can be more engaged with what we are doing in the community as well as receive updates on the contract.

(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 sustainability programming:

- 1. Library updates
 - a. Maker Day event on July 7th from 1-5pm, including seed library activities such as make your own macramé and flower planters
 - b. The Library is also working with the community center for community outreach. This past spring, they worked with the after-school program to teach 30-40 kids to grow beans and tomatoes from seeds which were then donated to the WP Housing Authority
- 2. Seed Library Funds
 - a. At the last board meeting, the WP Library had announced the start of the Seed Library and their goal to continue every year in the fall.
 - b. Back in August 2021, the Library had asked the board for help with funding the project (seeds, promotional items, etc.) and the board had approved a budget of \$2,906 for the year. The board needs to vote on if they want to fund this project again for the same amount. Ben Ellis asked for clarification on if the funds had already been given, to which Sara said they had not but the funding had been previously approved by the board. Part of the reason they had not been paid was due to the staffing updates within the Sustainability Division.
 - c. Mikayla also informed the board that when the funds had been approved in 2021, the project had not yet launched, but at Earth day 2022, the Seed Library had their soft launch where they gave out 56 seed packets and met with 150 people. On June 2nd 2022, the Seed Library launched at the WP Library and it concluded on June 10th. Over the course of those eight days, they distributed 1,294 seed packets at up to 5 packets per person, meaning they reached approximately 300 people. On social media they reached over 100 people through Instagram and Facebook.
 - d. On August 5th 2022, they are setting up their display in the Library, which will consist of a full stand near the East entrance. They also want to double the number of seeds, meaning there will be 3000 total seed packets consisting of 10 varieties. They will also provide seed paper bookmarks and use sustainable packaging. There will also be a survey and a newsletter.
 - e. Gloria Eby explained that when the new team started they were unaware about funding this project, and therefore, they wanted to bring it to the board to reintroduce and discuss. Gloria also clarified that because the board approved this in October 2021, and a typical fiscal year runs October to September 30th, they are still within the fiscal year. The board should approve this Seed Library budget now for the next fiscal, October 2022 to September 30th, 2023. Sara had found a placeholder in the overall budget for this program,

meaning it had been factored in, and Kay Hudson made the point that the board had been very interested in this program.

- f. The budget will stay the same, but this year, the Library will have a larger display with the plants that they are giving out as seeds. Ben Ellis made a motion to approve the previously approved funding for this year as well as this budget of \$2,906 for the next fiscal year. Carey Bond seconded and the motion passed.

(5) Non-Action Items

No non-action items

(6) Action Items

1. The board did have quorum and a lively debate about who should be the New Chair and Vice Chair
 - a. Carey Bond recommended Ben Ellis continue as Chair but he respectfully declined and agreed to serve as Vice Chair
 - b. Stephen Pategas also declined the Chair position, as he will be focusing on America in Bloom in the coming year
 - c. Stephen nominated Kay Hudson to be the New Chair and Ben to be the Vice Chair
 - i. Carey motioned to approve, Rishona seconded, and the motion passed
2. The staff requested information from the board regarding a past fundraiser, America in Bloom, as well as any other potential grants or awards that could be useful
 - a. Stephen Pategas currently serves this board. He explained that America in Bloom is a national not-for-profit organization that helps improve communities by providing advisors to assess them and make recommendations
 - i. The advisors come to the community for two days and KWPB provides accommodations. This had been on-going for six years in Winter Park but was paused due to the pandemic
 - ii. There had been a committee formed through KWPB called Winter Park Blooms, made up of Winter Park residents, that Steven had chaired. That group had met monthly to work on the project as well as brainstorm ideas for the city utilizing various organizations and city resources
 1. Attendees included: Casa Feliz, Hannibal Square Heritage Center, Parks and Recreation Department
 - b. Ben Ellis affirmed that America in Bloom has more to do with the Keep Winter Park *Beautiful* side and less to do with the sustainability aspect. He noted that this third-party group was effective in evaluating the city and giving recommendations, making it a valuable organization. He credits Stephen with spearheading the program and is interested in restarting
 - i. Stephen clarified that America in Bloom has several categories with different metrics, some of which do include a sustainable component, and are more than just beauty
 1. Some of these categories are: community vitality, flowers, landscape areas, urban forestry, celebrating heritage including historic preservation, environmental issues and overall impression
 - c. Stephen also explained that for at least three or four years they were selling donated caladium bulbs at the Farmer's Market to fundraise
 - i. During COVID, customers purchased the bulbs online and could pick them up at Mead Garden
 1. The Winter Park Garden Club was very involved with this project and even helped with funding in the past
 - d. Sara is very interested in this program and thinks it would be great to restart, especially as it encompasses many parts of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)
 - i. Stephen would be happy to spend more time outside of the board going through what is involved in this process

- ii. He will send out America in Bloom check list and Winter Park's previous community profile
- e. Vanessa Balta had presented at the 2021 America in Bloom Virtual Symposium and the previous year; the City had been awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Efforts
 - i. Sara asked that the board look for other awards or grants
 - 1. Bringing in new interns who could help with this
 - ii. Ben brought up the DOT grants that covers landscape improvements, especially for the medians
 - 1. Sara mentioned FDOT who has helped fund promotional items, fanny packs and reusable straws, in the past
- f. Stephen motioned to rejoin the America in Bloom program in 2023
 - i. Kay seconded and the motion passed

(7) Public Hearings

No Public Hearings.

(8) Board Comments and Green Minute

Carey Bond shared an article that she had read which discussed how Canada planned to get rid of all single-use plastics by the end of 2023. Sara Miller also saw that the National Parks Service is banning the use of all plastics. Mia Brady also shared two Green Business's initiatives that stood out: KOS coffee, which is almost a zero-waste establishment and Aeffect Hair Salon, who pays an outside company to recycle their salon products.

(9) Adjournment

Ben Ellis made a motion to adjourn and Carey Bond seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM

Minutes approved the board on mm/dd/yyyy.
/s/ Recording Secretary Sara Miller