



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Kay Hudson, Ben Ellis, Laura Gustafson-Hullinger, Stephen Pategas, John Page and Becky Distad; Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

Absent

Mark Yonker.

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby; Sustainability Specialist Mia Brady; Event Manager Johnny Miller; Natural Resources & Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor.

1) Call to Order

Chair Kay Hudson called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

2) Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of regular meeting April 18, 2023.

Motion made by Ben Ellis to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Laura Gustafson-Hullinger. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

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

There were none.

4) Action Items

There were none.

5) Non-Action Items

There were none.

6) Staff Updates

- a. Quanta Update

Staff gave a brief update noting that the Utility Advisory Board will be voting their recommendation on May 23 to the City Commission, after which the item will be brought before the City Commission for approval on May 24. The final report will be distributed- along with notes, and a letter of support from Rollins College- to this board and others, and will be posted online.

The board asked clarifying questions about the report, and staff explained what recommendations and targets are included in the packet going to the City Commission.

b. Energy Efficiency Study Update

The vendor for this study, 15 lightyears, has been undergoing internal staffing issues causing delays. As of right now, staff is working closely with the president of 15 lightyears to work on the study, which is projected to be presented to this board in two months.

c. Freebie Rideshare Program Update

Staff gave an update on Freebie and briefly explained the purpose of the program, which is to provide commuter gaps using EV vehicles for no charge to residents. This effort will be transferred to the Department of Transportation and updates will be provided to this board when acquired/needed.

d. Grant Updates

Several meetings were held internally to discuss the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, which is a competitive grant for Winter Park and only offers anywhere from \$200,000 to \$500,000. Staff has been working to narrow down potential projects that might fit into the budgetary restraint of the grant, such as a solar tree, or installing an additional EV charging station. The final deadline to apply is July, and the board will be updated moving forward.

In conjunction with the Department of Transportation, staff is submitting for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant, to fund the expansion of EV charging station expansion. The grant is two-pronged, with one focusing on corridors like Fairbanks, Lee Rd., etc., and the second on communities such as the CRA district, both of which are being submitted for. Staff is in the drafting phase as of right now, and will be submitting the grant before its May 30 deadline.

Keep America Beautiful, a non-profit focused on improving and beautifying community environments, reached out to Winter Park to engage in a tree planting project at the end of June. The trees are going to be planted at Howell Branch

Preserve, and any trees not planted by their volunteer group, will be planted by a contractor hired by the city. The board asked various questions to clarify what types of trees will be planted and staff highlighting that soft palmettos, pines, and cypress will be among some chosen.

The board asked for an update about ChargePoint/fueling stations and staff explained that before the switch from free to paid is made, the public needs to be noticed well in advance. There are also details to be worked out in terms of the pay system and accounting levels, however, staff is looking to implement the pay stations within the next two months. A brief discussion followed about the conversion and ChargePoint.

e. Earth Day Event Recap

Staff spoke on the success of the Earth Day event, and provided photographs showing the community engagement. There were at least 2,400 runners and 1,600 came through to the event, including community members. Hosting this event at Ward Park was such a success that staff has designated it the permanent location going forward.

f. Photography Fundraiser

The project is moving forward and staff will be sending the final graphics to the board for review. The fundraiser is centered around National Nature Photography Day on June 15, and consist of a photo contest that will select twelve images to be part of a calendar and then sold. Staff has been in contact with liaison to the Public Art Advisory Board, Craig O'Neil, to help in finding a nature photographer who would be willing to teach a class- as part of the fundraiser.

Per board suggestion, and after discussion, the fundraiser will be moved to next year to give both the board and staff sufficient time to ensure all elements are in place. After further discussion, the board and staff agreed to a work session for this month, and a "soft-launch" of the photography contest will be posted on social media this upcoming summer to test the engagement and overall collection process.

g. Multi-Family Recycling Update

Per last month's discussion, staff has spoken with Dermot White, Sandlewood Creek Condominiums, about sorting recycling for the people who live in the condominiums above. Staff is currently in contact with Waste Pro to determine what bins are appropriate to provide for the property manager to distribute to the

residents. Staff will continue working with Waste Pro and the property manager at Sandlewood Creek Condominiums to help resolve the issue.

h. Upcoming Events

- The Lake Sylvan Dock Party Engagement Event is scheduled for May 20, from 9 a.m. -11 a.m., and the board was encouraged to attend. A few questions were asked and discussion was held.
- The Lake Maitland Dog Island paddleboard cleanup is scheduled for May 27 from 9 a.m. – noon. The event is in sponsorship with Otter Paddle Orlando, and is focused on cleaning debris/trash from the lake and island. Otter Paddle Orlando is providing 15 paddleboards to rent, however, reserving ahead of time is required.
- The first composting class of the year is scheduled for May 25 at 6 p.m. at the Winter Park Library. This is run in partnership with UF IFAS Extension, with an agent being sent to teach the class. As of right now, 45 people are signed up and each participant will receive a Geo Bin composting bin.
- Line dancing on May 4, 11, 18, and 25 have been/are scheduled as a fundraising event for Keep Winter Park Beautiful. Staff will look into continuing the event into next month at the same location.
- Board Appreciation is scheduled for June 29 at the Winter Park Farmer's Market. Save-the-date's will be sent out to all board members in the next few weeks.
- Power of Self-Resilience workshop is being offered on May 24 and June 23 from noon-1:30 p.m. The class focuses on reducing stress and fatigue, boosting the immune system, easing social interactions, decreasing exhaustion, etc.
- Board Orientation, for all old and new board members, is on May 22 at 6:30 p.m. This orientation involves Sunshine Law training along with discussion of board procedures.

Mikayla Miller, Community Outreach Librarian at the Winter Park Library, gave a brief update on the Spring 2023 seed library collection. She highlighted the seeds made available, such as dill, basil, jalapeno, watermelon, celery, cucumber, loofah squash, and coreopsis flowers- among a few others. She provided statistics on the variety and quantity of users, and noted that more flowers will be provided due to requests. A few more updates were given on various events hosted by the library and discussion was held.

i. Advertisement/Article Updates

The Utility Bill Insert for June, as well as the Winter Park update article will include educational material about the fertilizer ordinance. Updates were also provided on

ads due for the Winter Park Magazine summer edition and the Winter Park Press. A brief discussion followed and staff will work toward advertising the line dancing fundraiser on June 9 and education material on irrigation on May 19.

7) Board Comments

a. Green Minutes

Ms. Hudson shared that she is involved with the UCF air quality study and the latest results have reported that air quality around Orange County is good.

Ms. Gustafson-Hullinger provided a few updates from the sustainability program at Rollins College. A plant party was held in April as part of Earth Day celebrations and was successful. She also spoke the completely refurbished urban farm on campus and detailed what features are included in the farm and what the produce grown is used for.

b. New Business / Announcement

Ms. Distad volunteered to join the short-term Photography Calendar Committee to help in planning. Staff will work to solidify a work session meeting date for the committee.

Brief discussion followed about the Quanta Renewable Energy recommendations and the updated Sustainability Action Plan. Staff highlighted that both will be publicly available on May 17.

c. Meeting Dates Accounting for the Holidays

A discussion ensued about rescheduling meeting dates for the months of November and December. The board and staff agreed to move the November 21 meeting to November 14 at 9:30 a.m. The December 19 meeting will remain as scheduled, unless later changed.

8) Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion for Upcoming Agenda Items

No discussion was held.

9) Adjournment

Motion made by Ben Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 p.m.; seconded by Stephen Pategas. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

Minutes approved by the board on June 20, 2023.

/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator.