Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.

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

Present

Kay Hudson, Rishona Teres, Carey Bond, Laura Gustafson-hullinger, Ben Ellis, Mark Yonker, and Stephen Pategas; Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

Staff Present

Sustainability Manager Sara Miller; Sustainability Specialist Mia Brady; Lakes Division Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor.

1) Call to Order

Kay Hudson called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m.

2) Consent Agenda

a. Approve Meeting Minutes for February 21st, 2023

Motion made by Carey Bond to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Stephen Pategas. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

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

There were no public comments.

4) Action Items

a. Board to vote on feasibility study scenario (1A,2A,3A) and provide a supporting statement

Staff presented the board with the three feasibility study scenarios outlined by Quanta Technology in previous meetings. Scenario 1A, which is 100% renewable energy supply by 2050, 2A which is 100% net-zero carbon energy supply by 2050, and 3A which is 80% renewable by 2035 followed by 100% renewable by 2050. Staff is recommending scenario 3A for board approval. Ms. Gustafson-hullinger read a statement on behalf of Rollins College in support of the City of Winter Park moving forward with the plan to reach 100% renewable energy by 2050, and will work collaboratively towards this goal. The floor opened for discussion and the board asked clarifying questions pertaining to why staff is recommending scenario 3A.

Based on Commission feedback, staff is making the recommendation because this scenario presents the fastest track to renewable energy and aligns with the budget and resources currently available.

Ms. Hudson spoke on the scenario and made mention to the benchmark year of 2042, proposed by the Commission at a previous work session, and whether or not that was something that the Commission required be a part of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) moving forward. After further discussion, staff suggested adding a footnote in the SAP pertaining to the 2042 benchmark, and also iterated that the SAP will be reviewed every year regardless with amendments being made as necessary.

Motion made by Stephen Pategas to recommend scenario 3A for City Commission approval; seconded by Carey Bond.

Mr. Ellis asked for staff clarification on the thought process behind choosing scenario 3A, considering the city will have to rely on future technologies in order to go from 80% to 100% renewable in fifteen years' time. Staff noted that in this moment in time, 80% renewable is the most realistic and achievable goal for the city, and when/if new technologies (hydrogen energy) become available they will be considered.

The board held further discussion and Ms. Teres suggested forming a plan "B", that would detail the steps toward 100% renewable if future technologies are not available. She also suggested language be included to require a meeting in 2035 to regroup and check the availability/affordability of technology. The board spoke in support of using 2035 as a benchmark year as opposed to 2042.

Stephen Pategas amended his motion to include a review at 2035 to check the status on the feasibility with a recommitment goal of reaching 100% renewable by 2050.

Commissioner Sullivan gave comment on the discussion held, and showed his support for the board's decision of scenario 3A, along with the inclusion of 2035 as a benchmark year for reassessment. He also spoke on the possibility of hiring a permanent employee/contract someone out, to help in the planning, management and implementation of climate resiliency, and suggested the board make that recommendation to the City Commission. He also suggested to adjust the aspirational language in the SAP and replace it with the goals that have been decided upon.

A discussion ensued about the SAP and what adjustments staff need to make before those changes are approved by the City Commission and published on the website. The solar feasibility study will be posted alongside the SAP. Staff will work internally to make the necessary adjustment and will report back to this board at the next meeting.

Per discussion, the amended motion was seconded by Ben Ellis. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Motion made by Ben Ellis to make a recommendation to the City Commission to set aside a portion of the budget for a full-time employee/third-party, to usher the process of renewable energy forward, and administer the recommendations made by Quanta Technology.

A brief discussion followed about the recommendation above.

Seconded by Stephen Pategas. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

b. EV Charging Stations- Change fee from Free to Pay base parking

Staff sought board approval to convert EV charging stations from free to paid (in-depth discussions were held at previous meetings). The board asked a few clarifying questions regarding costs of the charging stations and parking enforcement.

Motion made by Rishona Teres to change EV charging stations from free to paid; seconded by Mark Yonker. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

5) Non-Action Items

There were none.

6) Staff Updates

a. Quanta Update

Staff is working to finalize the study provided by Quanta Technology, and will utilize the recommendations made by this board and the City Commission. An update will be provided at the next meeting with a final plan to move forward.

b. Energy Efficiency Study Update

Staff is waiting for a finalized report from 15 lightyears of the audits completed around the city. The report should be available for board review at the next meeting.

c. Transportation

Staff is looking at the opportunity to partner with freebee, a company that provides on-demand, 100% electric transportation as part of the public transit network of municipalities, universities, resorts etc. Staff believes that this will be a great resource for residents and those visiting, and is already looking at grants to fund this. The city would provide this service and it will be free for the user.

The board asked a few questions about the number of vehicles, the distance covered, and the budget that would be used to pay for this service. Staff answered questions and will send a link to the freebee website for board review.

d. Photography Fundraiser/ Contest

Ms. Hudson gave updates and shared pricing on the calendar research she had done. Ms. Bond is working on coordinating with local Winter Park events to put dates on the calendar, but as of right now, they are not out; might have to engage the resources of the Communications Department for this portion of the project.

Staff feels that due to work-load concerns, focus should shift exclusively toward the contest. The board held a brief discussion and agreed that the committee for the photography fundraiser/contest needs to meet to decide on a few elements and ensure everything is on track. Staff will send an email to coordinate a date to meet in May.

e. Grant Updates

A grant is currently in the works for EV charging stations. Staff is working internally, and with Quanta Technology, to fulfill the grant and submit it by the end of May.

f. Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant: Competitive

Staff will begin working on this grant- which is due to be submitted by the end of 2023. This grant can be applied to everything energy efficiency and conservation related, such as solar power.

The board asked a few questions about money from the Inflation Reduction Act, and staff explained that the two grants mentioned above are coming from this Act.

7) Board Comments

a. Green Minute

Ms. Hudson asked staff to post a short presentation on the city's website, to help educate the public/residents on the city's energy goals. A discussion ensued and staff explained that the website is continuously updated, but staff will work with the Communication Department to simply the information into language/format that is digestible by the average person, and focused on clean energy goals. The board will be updated on this moving forward.

b. New Business / Announcements

A brief Earth Day announcement was made, with staff reminding the board of the event on Saturday, April 22, and encouraging them to attend. A brief discussion followed about the details of the event, which will include tree giveaways.

Dermot White, Sandlewood Creek Condominiums, who spoke before the board at the February meeting, hopes to have a contact at the city who can aid him in communicating with Waste Pro. Staff will reach out to Mr. White and will discuss further after this meeting.

8) Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion for Upcoming Agenda Item

- Review meeting dates for the remainder of the year to account for holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.
- Update about recycling.
- Chair and Vice chair election.

9) Adjournment

Ben Ellis made a recommendation to adjourn; seconded by Carey Bond. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Minutes approved by the board on May 16, 2023 .
/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator.