



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Monday, April 29, 2019

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Chair Tom Jones called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Tom Jones, Ronald Courtney, George Davis, Serenaty Lumpkin and Sandra Petway

Absent 3 - Jane Morgan, David M. Stone and Nick Flerlage

Also Present

Liaison Mayor John Holic, Public Works Director James Clinch and Recording Secretary Adrian Jimenez.

III. Presentation

[19-3885](#) Welcome New Board Members Serenaty Lumpkin and Sandra Petway

Mr. Jones welcomed Ms. Petway and Ms. Lumpkin to the board.

IV. Approval of Minutes

[19-3883](#) Minutes of the February 27, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the Minutes of the February 27, 2019 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[19-3884](#) Minutes of the March 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the Minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

V. Audience Participation

Lisa Richardson, Epiphany Cathedral School Environmental Club, spoke on school involvement, community's environment, water treatment, environmental smell, Red Tide, water samples, algae discoveries,

Sarasota Water Treatment Facility fieldtrip, school garden, donated rain barrel, school drains, garden club, water consumption, recycling program, Sea Camp, Save the Straw, biodegradables, reusables, marine debris, algae bloom, food containers, public awareness, compost, and answered board questions on fresh and salt water studies and effects.

Gage Hassler, Epiphany Cathedral School Environmental Club, answered board question on what he would do if he was governor.

Ms. Richardson answered board questions on Red Tide and ideas.

Mr. Courtney invited Epiphany Cathedral School to the June 26, 2019 meeting for Jon Thaxton's presentation.

Mary King, Venice Area Audubon Society, spoke on present plans to include Homeowners Associations (HOAs), outreach programs, regional conservations, Venice Golf and Country Club, Sarasota National, Sarasota Garden Club, Audubon Internationals, Audubon programs, extension services, Florida Friendly Landscaping, birds and pollinators, future plans to include certification programs, community outreaches, Venice Area Beautification Inc., (VABI), and answered board questions on contact information, and HOA improvements.

VI. Unfinished Business

[18-3247](#)

Discuss Recommending that the City of Venice Waive All Permit and Inspection Fees for Developers, Commercial Construction and Individual Homeowners and to Request Permission to Use Solar Panels or Solar Tiles in their Construction or Remodeling (Courtney)

Board discussion took place on enterprise funds, passing laws, consumer use, power companies, homeowners, letter to legislators, permit fees, solar benefits, grants, Florida Power and Light (FPL), unused solar power, electrical inspections, encouraging solar, buy backs, Duke Energy, recognized utilities, net metering state, municipalities, and incentives.

Mayor Holic spoke on letter to legislators and forwarding to city council.

Discussion took place on incentives, fees, subsidies, and cash rebates.

Board will provide suggestions on the letter to legislators for June 26, 2019 meeting.

Mayor Holic suggested the board invite a guest speaker from FPL.

IV. New Business

[19-3886](#) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

There was board consensus to discuss this item at the June 26, 2019 meeting.

[19-3758](#) Review City of Fort Lauderdale's Ordinance on Banning Plastic Straws

Board discussion took place on straw allowances, volunteer system, Skip the Straw, refusing straws, endorsements, Venice MainStreet, Save the Straws, reusable utensils, alternatives, compostables, various straw materials, Sharky's alternatives and usage, and monitoring other cities.

Mayor Holic spoke on state legislative session, preemption ordinances, banning straws and plastic bags, and biodegradables.

Board discussion continued on Tampa Bay Times article, effects of plastic utensils, banned plastic straws, preemptions, plastic versus paper bags, and resources.

[19-3893](#) Recommendation to Venice Planning Commission that the Environmental Advisory Board be Part of the Process of Writing the Environmental Section of the Revised Land Development Regulations (LDRs)

Board discussion took place on letter to planning commission, Land Development Regulations (LDRs), Audubon Society, Florida Friendly Landscaping, various plants, LDR involvement, Architectural Review Board (ARB), Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, joint meetings, consultants, rough drafts, sustainability, property owners, economic gains, comprehensive plan, and environmental recommendations.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the recommendation to Venice Planning Commission that the Environmental Advisory Board be part of the process of writing the environmental section of the revised Land Development Regulations to be approved in the letter as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

VIII. Updates

[18-3540](#) Discuss Planning Commission Placing Florida Friendly Landscaping for all New Developments for Open Space and Resident Yards

There was board consensus to discuss this item at a future meeting once Mr. Courtney receives updates from the Planning Commission and consultants.

[18-3541](#) Discuss City Sending an Invitation for all Existing Homeowners Association (HOAs) to Work Jointly with the Environmental Board in Developing an Educational Program for New Residents to Promote Florida Friendly Landscaping and Water Management and to Encourage Existing HOAs to Adjust their Community Wide Standards for Florida Friendly Landscape

Board discussion took place on University Florida Extension, Florida

Friendly Landscaping, landscapers, Homeowners Associations (HOAs), landscaping committees, educating landscapers, grass approval, St. Augustine grass, Audubon Society, regulations, city arborist, and new developments.

There was board consensus to discuss this item at a future meeting once Mr. Courtney receives updates from the Audubon Society, Dick Longo for Homeowners Association (HOA) regulations, and Greater Venice Coalition.

[18-3678](#)

Venice MainStreet: "Save the Straw" and Biodegradable Take Out Containers

Board discussion took place on encouraging Skip the Straw, monitoring, take home containers, and educating the community.

IX. Future Agenda Items

Board discussion took place on Jon Thaxton's presentation, Florida Power and Light (FPL) representative, and election of chair and vice chair.

Gage Hassler, Ephiphay Cathedral School Environmental Club, answered board question on his experience at the Environmental Advisory Board meeting.

Discussion took place on Think Globally Think Locally, beach debris, and reducing litter.

Mayor Holic spoke on increaseing the scope of Adopt a Park programs, including roads and beaches. He discussed Hands Along the Water, water goats, litter, plastic bottles, shore debris, and answered board questions on filters, beach areas and reservoirs, marked drains, and volunteers.

X. Board Discussion

There was none.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary