



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Present 7 - George Davis, Tom Jones, Kaj Jensen, Paxton Barrick, Bruce Miller, Robert Daniels and Jeffrey Smith

Also Present

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden and Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins- Brown.

[23-6019](#)

Board Member Introductions

Board members introduced themselves and listed their credentials.

III. Approval of Minutes

[23-6020](#)

Minutes of the January 25, 2023 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Daniels, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

IV. New Business

[23-6021](#)

Reducing Single Use Plastic

Skip the Straw and Lid, Promote Compostable Food Service Items

Discussion took place regarding concerns for cost involved, compostable containers still ending up in trash, volunteer restaurant program, refillable water stations, program with other companies about the value, requiring environmental efforts in leases of public property, working with tourist focused businesses, contacting businesses currently utilizing environmental friendly programs, contacting Venice Mainstreet, and expansion of current programs.

There was consensus for board members to contact Sharky's restaurant and Venice Creamery with request to present at a future meeting about environmental program benefits.

[23-6022](#)**Recommendations to Address Water Quality Issues**

Aquaculture in Gulf, Mini Reefs, Shellfish Planting and Reduction of Nitrogen in Stormwater Runoff

Discussion took place regarding the mini reef program presented to City Council by Mayor Holic, shellfish seeding, reducing trash in storm drains, ponds and lakes care, Homeowners Association (HOA) water quality management, no mow zones, sloping water lines, man made garden floats in ponds, City's jurisdiction in HOAs, adverse affects on ride tide, sewage/septic tanks mitigation, and encouraging greens spaces.

V. Unfinished Business**VI. Updates****VII. Future Agenda Items**

Discussion took place regarding protections for marine animals and Gopher tortoises.

VIII. Board Discussion[23-6023](#)**Board Approved Agenda and Future of Board**

Discussion took place regarding City Council discussion for consolidation of boards, having meetings as needed, concerns for diluting focus on specific topics, boards utilized as research groups, board providing more focused recommendations, perceived inefficiency, direction from City Council, demand for environmental concern increasing, advertisement for vacancy, limitation of City jurisdiction, LDRs recommendations for green building, presentation method for vacancies and reports, highlighting accomplishments, and sending communication to City Council.

There was consensus for Chair Davis to draft a letter to City Council regarding the importance of Environmental Advisory Board.

[23-6024](#)**Tom Jones' Service to the Board**

Chair Davis recognized Tom Jones' service to the board over the many years. Mr. Jones spoke of his time on the board and his passion for the environment.

Board thanked Student Member Mr. Barrick for his service.

IX. Audience Participation

There was no one signed up to speak.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary