



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting

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 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 7 - Chair Tom Jones, Jane Morgan, Donna Pachota, Ronald Courtney, David M. Stone, George Davis and Nick Flerlage

Also Present

Liaison Mayor John Holic and Recording Secretary Adrian Jimenez.

III. 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)

Mayor Holic spoke on Item No. 18-3247 to include enterprise funds, fees, duties, operations, established fees, state statutes, local levels, and state passing all waiving permits and inspection fees.

Mayor Holic spoke on Item No. 18-3540 to include Land Development Regulations (LDRs), new developments, replacing vegetation, Florida Friendly Landscaping, legislation bill, preemption bill, and private yard gardens.

Mayor Holic spoke on Item No. 19-3816 to include inspection fees, number of septic systems, off the island septic systems, parcels, and answered board question on incentives.

Discussion followed on solar rebates with Florida Power and Light (FPL).

Mayor Holic recommended the board ask city council to persuade the state legislators for rebates, and answered board questions on permits,

encouraging county on septic systems, excess nutrients and fertilizers, inspections, and state priorities.

Discussion took place on solar panels, city electric inspection fees, restoring, installation, energy bills, solar water heaters, state legislator priorities list, assisting individual homeowners, encouraging developers for solar panels, state level construction, Florida being a net metering state, economic forces, incentives, and energy efficient homes.

Mr. Courtney will provide a draft letter to the state legislators for review at the April 29 meeting.

[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

Dick Longo, 295 Marsh Creek Road, spoke on Homeowners Association (HOA), Central Venice Coalition Steering Committee, Red Tide, offered board support, potential conflicts, state and city regulations, no fertilizations, community wide standards, city publications, and answered board questions on deed restrictions, landscaping maintenance, landscaping ownership, and licensed landscapers by city or state.

Michael Wojnowski, 236 Rosolina Court, spoke on Florida Friendly Landscaping meeting, public uneducated, new developments, landscaping plans, parcels, changing plants, Homeowner Associations (HOAs), builder requirements, water filtering, retention ponds, future erosion issues, compatibility, and answered board questions on HOA plantings, land use regulations, and education.

[19-3814](#)

Proposed Change of April 24, 2019 Meeting to April 29, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Courtney spoke on Epiphany Cathedral School Environmental Club and pre junior high grade level.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Stone, to reschedule the April 24, 2019 meeting to April 29, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[18-3540](#)

Discuss Planning Commission Placing Florida Friendly Landscaping for all New Developments for Open Space and Resident Yards

Mr. Courtney spoke on consultants, land development codes, irrigation, zoning, planning department, specific language proposal, open spaces, residential homes, community wide standards, Florida Friendly Landscaping, water standards, compliance, plant materials, purchasing of plants, variety of plants, fertilizer usage, regulations, and new developer

concepts.

Bonnie Hurley, Venice Area Audubon Society, spoke on landscaping, resources, education, Plants for Birds, environments, habitats, bird watching organization, Homeowner Associations (HOAs), local Audubon Society members, native plant yards, wildlife, and out of state members.

[18-3541](#)

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Discussion took place on Florida Landscaping pamphlet, Florida Friendly planting, homeowners information site, HOA documentations, inheriting solar systems, electrical bills, variety of palm trees, removal of oak trees, site plans, root expansion, water lines, pavers, sidewalks, revisions on Land Development Regulations (LDRs), and incentives.

[18-3543](#)

Discuss Enforcement of Section 54-5, Hauling Solid Waste, Code of Ordinances (Stone)

Discussion took place on hauling waste, sand blasting, debris removal, gardening companies, hazards, police enforcement, county ordinance, covering truck loads, city vehicles, county roads, code enforcement board, and code compliance.

Mr. Stone will provide an update from code enforcement board at the next meeting.

IV. Updates

[19-3815](#)

Allowing Mini-Reefs in Venice Waters in Roberts Bay (Stone)

Mr. Stone provided an update on mini reefs, Sarasota County permitting department, Venice building department, and permit requirements.

Mr. Stone will provide an update after following up with the city for permitting at the next meeting.

[19-3816](#)

Septic System Inspections in Venice (Stone)

Mr. Stone provided an update on Massachusetts vs. Florida on mandatory inspections, city compliance, rebates, city enforcement, system failure, leaking tanks, city inspection coverage, Miami Dade County, water elevations, sewer lines, federal and state funding, sewer system plans, housing ownership, and real estate requirements.

Discussion took place on cost of recyclables, landfills and taxes, revenue, and contracts.

V. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

VI. Board Discussion

There was none.

VII. Audience Participation

There was none.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary