



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

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Wednesday, May 31, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Roll Call

**Present** 4 - George Davis, Kaj Jensen, Jeffrey Smith and Nancy Dixon

**Absent** 2 - Bruce Miller and Robert Daniels

### Also Present

Assistant City Engineer Jon Kramer, and Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown.

### III. Approval of Minutes

[23-6109](#) Minutes of the March 22, 2023 Meeting.

Minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

### IV. New Business

[23-6110](#) Presentation By Drew of Venice Avenue Creamery on environmental friendly practices.

Chair Davis introduced Andrew Parker from Venice Creamery.

Drew Parker spoke on ownership of business, ordering best for customer regarding quality and environmental impact, using natural coloring, biodegradable products, utilizing local suppliers, cost effectiveness, post Covid challenges, availability, utilizing multiple vendors, striving for zero waste, continued research for new innovations utilized by competitors, contribution to community as whole, and answered Board questions regarding response from customer, biodegradable rating standards, cost premiums, price differential, cost parity by ordering in bulk, need to switch

vendors due to availability, percentage of suppliers that are local, certifications in food service industry, past concerns about additional costs, recovery from disruptions in supply chain from Covid, marketing and plastic straw alternatives.

[23-6111](#)

Presentation by John Holic on Roberts Bay Artificial Reef project.

John Holic and Linda Short from Venice Yacht Club, presented Robert's Bay Revitalization Initiatives, goals of the program, partnerships in the community, measuring water quality, obtaining global permit, number of docks in Robert's Bay, funding, similar projects, Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP), vertical oyster gardens, size of reefs, installation details, loss of natural filtration from mangroves and oyster beds, vendor used, annual maintenance checks, artificial reef information, disposal process, deployment in southwest Florida, photo of mini reef, changing from stainless steel strapping to polypropylene, history of managing red tide blooms, looking for docks for placement, and answered board questions on permits, CHNEP, marketing of measured results, density of garden or reef, space needed, grant received, polypropylene being safe for water, effectiveness over time, vendor selection, Hurricane Ian damages, fundraising goals, working with dock restoration companies, and potential Midnight Pass impact.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

[23-6021](#)

Reducing Single Use Plastic  
Skip the Straw and Lid, Promote Compostable Food Service Items  
There was no discussion.

[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 Roberts Bay Revitalization efforts, City's outflow survey, capital improvements projects addressing water quality and current monitoring.

## **VI. Updates**

## **VII. Future Agenda Items**

Discussion took place regarding gopher tortoises and animal protections.

## **VIII. Board Discussion**

Discussion took place regarding the letter to City Council, history of board

accomplishments, Chair Davis meetings with former member Tom Jones, Mayor Pachota, and Council Liaison Longo, next meeting July 12th, yearly schedule, and working with outside civic groups, Legislative Referral process, and spraying for insects.

#### **IX. Audience Participation**

No one signed up to speak.

#### **X. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary