



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

1:00 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 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 6 - Chair Tom Jones, Donna Pachota, Ronald Courtney, David M. Stone, George Davis and Nick Flerlage

Absent 1 - Jane Morgan

III. Approval of Minutes

[19-3754](#) Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Stone, that the Minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. Audience Participation

There was none.

V. New Business

[19-3755](#) Jan Hoefling and Cat Diller, Co-Founders, Rethinking Plastic

Ms. Diller, Rethinking Plastics, provided a presentation on City of Sarasota Sustainability department, single use plastics, Rethinking Plastic history, and educating the public.

Ms. Hoefling, Rethinking Plastics, provided a presentation on problems with plastics, single use plastics, paper vs plastic bags, micro plastics, biodegradables, bay and local waters, green house gases, financial impacts, water usage, straws, research, floating plastics, and plastics that sink in seawater.

Ms. Diller spoke on local data, cleanup, Siesta Key Beach, Salvation Army, downtown Sarasota business district, Martin Luther King Newtown business district, single use plastics, bay and ocean waters, storm drains,

and third world countries.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on micro plastics, plastic breakdowns, higher concentrations, degrading, environmental damage, sea turtle hatchlings, Mote Marine Laboratory (MOTE) data, wash backs, necropsies, and bacteria.

Ms. Diller spoke on preemption in Florida, state policies and current litigations, polystyrene, reports, plastic straws, local municipalities, governments, banned plastic bags, proposed bills, summary of actions by other jurisdictions, and local groups.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on Florida Defenders of the Environment (FDE) Report, single use plastic bags, The Bad Fives, alternatives, better existing bags, promotions, reusables, clamshell to go containers, paper products, future growth, avocado seeds, bamboo straws, cost, utensils, training the public, to go containers, and partnership with Skip the Straw Suncoast Campaign.

Ms. Diller spoke on impacts to local businesses, cost, polystyrene, clamshells, biodegradables, clean oceans, clean water, customers, alternatives, rising competition, reusables, dishwashing stations, condiment cups, labor, and finances.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on avoiding single use plastics, cost, disabilities, and shared information.

Ms. Diller spoke on recommendations, Disability Advisory Board, collaboration, education, outdoor cafes, sidewalk café permits, contracts, possible ordinances, encouraging the public, and restaurant alternatives.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on The Bad Five free program, window emblem decal, restaurants, and answered board questions on landfills, litter, campaigns, legal aspects, ban on plastics, restrictions on legal actions, volunteering, training on alternative methods, and contact with Venice MainStreet.

Ms. Pachota spoke on convincing the public, paper straws, clamshells, biodegradables, cost, and Red Tide.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on tourism, and answered board questions on volunteer educational program, and recommendation to city for passing of an ordinance.

Mr. Jones spoke on legal aspects, local options, voluntary cooperation, various plastics, purchasing recyclables, cost, recycling process, cost of

landfills, public habits, The Bad Five language, new branding, eco chronics, Venice MainStreet efforts, cost of packaging, non traditional materials, reusables, labor cost, restaurant issues, rethinking plastics, and alternatives.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on Ready for 100, water dispensers, plastic bins, naming of The Bad Five, polystyrene, sustainable alternatives, eco products, to go containers, plastic lining, corn plastics, campaigns, Skip the Straw, paper straws, bring your own containers, training customers, re-education, recyclables, and rethinking.

Mr. Jones spoke on tourist economy, business owners, locals, tourist dependability, and rethinking plastics.

Ms. Hoefling spoke on European population, throw away society, green restaurants, sustainable restaurants, local produce, single use plastics, and answered board questions on bring your own sustainables.

Ms. Diller spoke on cost, landfill, recycling, education, and rethinking.

Discussion took place on restaurant decisions, menu promotions, and city to lead by example.

[19-3759](#)

David Wolff: Ocean Habitats

Mr. Wolff, Ocean Habitats, provided a presentation on background, building canals, disappearing of wetlands, mangroves, algae, Red Tide, Brown Tide, bacteria, viruses, nutrients, micro organisms, Marine Habitat Foundation, ocean ranching, filter feeders, flotation devices, habitats, mini reefs, apple pods, baby crabs, lobster, fish, mini reef cleaning and materials, recycling, different species, hurricane sustainability, other city uses, Mote Marine labs, proper measurements, mangrove snappers, aging, pollution issues, eco system, Marco Island, testimonials, and answered board questions on helping needs, cost, sponsorship, Intracoastal waterway restrictions, and informing and educating the public.

Board discussion to recommend the City of Venice to purchase mini reefs.

Mr. Wolff answered board questions on installation of mini reefs, location, individual homeowners and installation restrictions.

Discussion took place on clams, Ft. Myers Beach contract, fishing issues, Intercoastal waterway, and city piers.

Mr. Stone will provide an update on allowing mini-reefs in Venice waters in Roberts Bay at the next meeting.

Discussion took place on monitored devices, major pollutions, homeowners, inner canals, mini reefs, mussels, clams, increasing filter feeding, Red Tide, habitat replacement, divers, snorkelers, city matching purchases, city roles, city regulations, city budgets, promoting, and if permitting process needed.

[19-3756](#)

Discuss Recommending A Special Meeting

Board discussion took place on future agenda items, possible special meeting, marketing piece on The Bad Five, agenda items for special meeting to include: Mr. Stone to provide an update on allowing mini reefs in Venice waters in Roberts Bay, Florida Friendly Landscaping, and Homeowners Association (HOA)s.

Ms. Pachota left the dais at 2:25 p.m and did not return.

Discussion continued on solar system fees and inspections, Ft. Lauderdale ordinance banning plastic straws to include volunteering educational program guidelines, restaurant associations, recommendations to city council, supplying and usage, ban enforcement, Venice MainStreet, education standpoint, promoting, council support, state decisions, voluntary encouragement, penalties, discussion items for April meeting, city limits, Rethinking Plastics, awareness, possible ordinances, primary roles, city presentations, resolutions, encouraging inspections on septic systems, and action items.

Discussion followed on solar permitting to include sustainability guidelines, solar system value, solar Photovoltaic (PV) system, fees, new software, recommendations, waiving permits, electrical inspections and permits, state fees, contractor fees, incentives, encouraging solar systems, user friendly, and purchaser friendly.

Discussion continued on board member assignments on Rethinking Plastic, communication process, setting time for future agenda items, and topics under board discussion.

Mr. Flerlage left the dais at 2:47 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion followed on the topic of hauling solid waste being held at the special meeting, duplicate presentations, limiting presentations, board member assignments, septic tank system to include Mr. Stone to provide update at the special meeting on March 20, 2019, educational outreach program, voluntary inspections, inspection requirements, leaking septic, Red Tide, ground water, eliminating septic, rising ground water, coastal areas, open hauling, waste management and recycling, stakeholders group,

council status report, and staff recommendations.

There was board consensus for a special meeting held on March 20, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and that the August 28, 2019 meeting be canceled.

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

This item will be discussed at the April 24, 2019 meeting.

[19-3757](#) Discuss Procedure for Board Member Assignments (Davis)

This item was discussed under Item No. 19-3756.

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

Mr. Jones will discuss this item at the special meeting on March 20, 2019.

[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

Mr. Jones will discuss this item at the special meeting on March 20, 2019.

[18-3543](#) Discuss Enforcement of Section 54-5, Hauling Solid Waste, Code of Ordinances (Stone)

Mr. Stone will discuss this item at the special meeting on March 20, 2019.

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)

Mr. Courtney will discuss this item at the special meeting on March 20, 2019.

VII. Updates

[18-3678](#) Venice Main Street: "Save the Straw" and Biodegradable Take Out Containers

There was no discussion on this item.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

This item was discussed under Item No. 19-3756.

IX. Board Discussion

There was none.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary