



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

2:30 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 2:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Tom Jones, Tracy Ivey, Margaret Fiedler, Nick Flerlage, and Ronald Courtney

Absent 3 - Jane Morgan, Donna Pachota, and Andrea Stultz

Also Present

Liaison Council Member Fred Fraize, Stormwater Engineer James Clinch, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum and Recording Secretary Michelle Girvan.

III. Approval of Minutes

[16-2001](#)

Minutes of the February 24, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Ivey, seconded by Mr. Flerlage, that the Minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. New Business

[16-2002](#)

Bottle Deposit and Plastic Bag Recycling

Mr. Jones provided a brief overview of the Surfrider Foundation to include the proposed resolution.

John Kurz and Amanda Harig, Surfrider Foundation, discussed plastic straw ban, bottle deposit and plastic bag recycling, guidelines, supporting grocery stores, bans on other plastic items and bags, allowing pilot programs, beach clean-ups, recycling, resolution in support of pilot programs, coastal communities, and passing of resolutions in different counties.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution, negative impact of

single-use plastic bags, passing a legal law, other plastic items, banning of plastic straws and cigarette butts, awareness, Surfrider Foundation to contact Publix regarding plastic grocery bags, support from supermarkets, paper or starch based straws, plastic trash on beaches, beach cleanup, ban on plastic straws and lids, feedback from beach communities, sponsor of bill, resolution adoption, bacteria level in fabric bags, paper bags, pet owners usage of plastic bags, starch based bags, decomposition of plastic bags, and lessening negative impact of plastic bags versus banning bags.

Mr. Kurz spoke about the usage of large plastic trash bags used by the municipality, how to monitor usage, support of the resolution, test of local control, and allowing a coastal municipal area of 100,000 or less for the pilot program.

Discussion continued on tourism, support from local grocery stores, logistics to pass resolution, process of getting resolution to city council for discussion and approval, scope of other municipalities on ban, educating the public regarding starch bags, using a state wide model for resolution, resolution on plastic bags only, passing by legislature, education process, and visitors being a large part of the economy.

Discussion followed regarding recommendation to city council, finalization of resolution and retaining the same verbiage before going to city council, educating the public on the single use of the plastic bag ban, and the impact of the ban.

Ms. Fielder moved to recommend staff add appropriate legal language to the resolution and encourage city council to agree with the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Jones.

Discussion continued regarding making changes, substitution of plastic trash bags, starch bags, definition of single use trash bags, single use shopping bags, and suggestion to make changes to the resolution from single use-plastic bags to single-use plastic shopping bags.

Ms. Fiedler amended the motion to revise line 5 of the resolution from "single-use plastic bags" to "single-use plastic shopping bags."

Mr. Jones requested Mr. Clinch to make changes to the resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Courtney, to change the resolution of line 5 to read single-use plastic shopping bags instead of single-use plastic bags and recommendation to city council for approval. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Discussion took place regarding different states requiring bottle deposit and Florida having a bottle deposit bill.

Mr. Clinch spoke in regards to Stanley Cole from Palm Harbor giving a presentation on the bottle deposits to the board, with a request for this

item to be the future agenda for discussion.

Mr. Kurz will speak with other states regarding bottle deposit and return to board with information.

V. Unfinished Business

Ms. Ivey spoke on attending the garden club's yearly convention, fracking in Florida, adding fracking to the next agenda, and the decline of bee population.

VI. Updates

There were no updates.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Courtney suggested inviting Bob Moroni to the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting in August to discuss the increase participation in safe disposal of prescription medications.

Ms. Fiedler suggested inviting Ms. Andrews from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to the EAB August meeting to discuss topics regarding the utilization of city parks.

VIII. Board Discussion

There was no discussion.

[16-2003](#)

Ronald Courtney's-Comprehensive Plan Comments

Mr. Shrum provided an update on the comprehensive plan to include joint meeting with city council, decisions made by the planning commission, topic on dealing with conservation of open space, simplicity of plan, future land use categories, reducing categories, board taking action, wildlife corridors, providing information as a board, overall plan and vision, draft language, regulatory aspect removed from plan, requirements, land development code, policies, including engineering language in plan, cleanup of process, disconnect of development and regulatory stages, feedback to planning commission, and designated conservation areas.

Discussion continued on the comprehensive plan including areas needing to be addressed, designating and creating wildlife corridors on the island, regulation requirements, definition of wildlife corridors, setting aside a percentage of open space for future developments, creating language on the amount of land development for public use, Planned Unit Development (PUD) fifty percent open space, obtaining better conservation areas and wildlife connectivity by implementing developer standards, timeframe for proposal, and having joint meetings with the

planning commission.

Discussion ensued regarding a motion on workshop meetings to discuss concerns and recommendations and make revisions to the comprehensive plan. Mr. Shrum suggested to have a written draft available for the planning commission with discussion continuing on the next meeting date.

Discussion followed regarding berms, hedges, walls, latitude and standards of the PUD, plat process, input from Environmental Advisory Board, and July meeting dates.

Mr. Clinch stated that there was no beach erosion or bacteria and spoke in regards to the new engineering employee, upcoming rainy season, beach renourishment, and sea turtle and shore bird monitoring.

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 4:07 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary