



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

---

Wednesday, August 24, 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** 6 - Chair Tom Jones, Donna Pachota, Tracy Ivey, Andrea Stultz, Nick Flerlage and Ronald Courtney

**Absent** 2 - Jane Morgan and Margaret Fiedler

### Also Present

Liaison Council Member Fred Fraize, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

### III. Approval of Minutes

[16-2161](#)

Minutes of the May 25, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Flerlage, to approve the Minutes of the May 25, 2016 meeting. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

### IV. New Business

[16-2162](#)

Collection and Disposal of Prescription Drugs - Captain Mike Rose (15 mins)

Captain Mike Rose, Venice Police Department, spoke on the drug lock box program to include implementation and regulations of the program, initiation and dedication date, stipulations on how to collect and dispose prescription drugs, secure disposal locations within the county, hours of operation, number of prescription drugs destroyed in 2015, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) advertising, coordination with sheriff's office, concerns with mixing drugs, and disposal process in Fort Myers.

Captain Rose responded to board questions regarding problems with

improper disposal of prescription drugs, percentage of prescription drugs flushed down the toilet or thrown in the garbage, locations within the county that have drug disposal boxes, having the county set up an incinerator instead of traveling to Fort Myers, prescriptions drugs that have a high street value, anonymous disposals, disposal procedures for doctor offices and pharmacies, and sampling landfill for toxicity.

Discussion followed on environmental concerns with toxicity at the landfills, whether the county has data on substances coming out of the landfill, methods on informing the public of proper disposal, encouraging residents to handle toxics wisely, providing proper drug disposal information on the city's website and newsletter, promoting program and drop off locations, program hours of operation, partnership with the county for publicizing program, and cost projection.

Ms. Pachota arrived to the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Captain Rose responded to board questions regarding staff manpower if program responses increase.

#### 16-2163

Utilization of Parks - Linda Kenfield Andrews

Mr. Jones asked for suggestions on how the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) can help increase the utilization of noninhabitant nonresidential area parks and make them beneficial to the citizens of Venice.

Ms. Andrews spoke on developed and undeveloped parks, Ajax property, county owned parks within the city, county maintenance of parks, adequate return of taxes collected by the county, beach parks, water access parks, intensive sports parks, wildlife areas, designated preserved area, biggest density parks, Sawgrass property development, increasing park resources, and issues with plants that have an environmental impact.

Ms. Andrews responded to board questions regarding increasing functionality of parks within the city, functional open spaces and conservation, preservation of parks, plan to maintain parks close to natural for open spaces and access to the public, measure of level of service, acres per person provided of park space, planning commission's decision whether to count amenities within a gated community, negotiated open spaces during development, beaches not included in the planning commission's master plan draft, and city's use of Ajax property.

Discussion followed on creating a formula to determine acres needed for functional versus nonfunctional parks, natural open space, level of service based on active use of parks, EAB making recommendations

regarding passive parks, difference between active and passive parks, issues with preserved land, county land reservation, reassessing current use of parks, and justified amount of used open space.

Ms. Andrews encouraged the board to make recommendations on their own perspective.

Discussion continued on survey responses regarding requests for more active parks, demographic growth and population, and Ms. Ivey attending the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

### [16-2164](#)

#### Comprehensive Plan Review

Mr. Jones mentioned Mr. Shrum is hoping to have a draft of the comprehensive plan done within the next couple of months and then they will have information sessions around the city.

Mr. Courtney spoke on five items he would like to address on the comprehensive plan to include wildlife habitat corridors, conservation land versus functional open space at parks, emphasizing mulching for preconstruction clearing rather than site burning, restriction on solid wall exteriors, and restrictions on fracking.

Ms. Andrews recommended for board members to review proposal on wildlife corridors in the parks master plan.

Discussion ensued on addressing other items on the comprehensive plan to include square footage contributed to green space, neighborhood compatibility, looking at broader areas, flood plan, and having a healthy water source.

## **New Business - Continued**

### [16-2201](#)

Assistant City Attorney and City Clerk Lori Stelzer: Refresher on Public Records and Sunshine Laws as Required by the Settlement Agreement in the Citizens for Sunshine and Anthony Lorenzo Litigation

Ms. Fernandez provided a brief presentation on the sunshine law to include requirements, discussions with individuals and other board members, meetings open to the public, reasonable notices, meeting minutes, violations, and previous city lawsuit.

Ms. Fernandez responded to board questions regarding violations and shared communication.

Ms. Stelzer noted she will have Ms. Girvan add "please do not respond to all" on her emails to the board.

Ms. Fernandez spoke on the public records law to include unfinished business exception and communication on social networking sites.

Ms. Stelzer commented on texting policy and disclosure of records.

Ms. Fernandez discussed authorized rights to inspect and receive copies of public records, violations of the public records act, and Florida's ethics law.

Ms. Fernandez provided a sunshine law and public records exam and went over questions and answers with the board.

### **Unfinished Business - Continued**

[16-2165](#)

Plastic Bag Recycling and Bottle Deposit

This item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

Discussion followed on the board's next meeting date, passing of resolution by the EAB to city council, resubmitting resolution to city council, reviewing language on resolution, and further discussion of this item at another meeting.

### **VI. Updates**

### **VII. Future Agenda Items**

### **VIII. Board Discussion**

### **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 4:18 p.m.

---

Chair

---

Recording Secretary