



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

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 1:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Tom Jones, Donna Pachota, Ronald Courtney, David M. Stone and George Davis

Absent 3 - Jane Morgan, Nick Flerlage and Claire Ellis

Also Present

Liaison Council Member Margaret Fiedler, Assistant City Engineer James Clinch, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

III. Approval of Minutes

[18-3249](#)

Minutes of the February 28, 2018 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve the February 28, 2018 meeting minutes as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. New Business

Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Davis to the board, and questioned members regarding their availability for the next meeting.

Mr. Davis noted he will be absent at the June meeting.

There was consensus for the board to take a summer break and cancel the meeting on August 22, 2018.

Mr. Jones spoke to the sunshine law.

Mr. Courtney requested to add two items to the agenda.

[18-3247](#)

Discussion Regarding 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)

Discussion took place regarding eliminating permit fees for developers and Mr. Courtney obtaining data on permit fee costs.

Mr. Clinch commented on permit fee costs and waiving fees.

Discussion followed on fee waivers, suggesting a fast track incentive for permit applications, cost of permit fees, restrictions, reducing fees, fees paying onsite inspectors, reviewing fees at the June meeting, and Ms. Pachota contacting Florida Power and Light (FPL) to seek information on solar.

[18-3248](#)

Discussion Regarding Recommending that the Planning Department and the Planning Commission Develop Language Within the Land Development Code that will Encourage the Placement of Solar Panels and Solar Tiles and Removing any Present and/or Potential Zoning and Architectural Restrictions and for the City of Venice to Actively Investigate the Initial Construction Cost and Potential Gain from the Placement of Solar Panels and Tiles on the Proposed Structures. (Courtney)

Discussion took place regarding adding language to the land development code (LDC) to promote and encourage placement of solar panels on proposed structures.

Mr. Clinch responded to questions regarding language in the comprehensive plan on solar panel restrictions, and recommended suggestions be provided to the planning commission.

Discussion followed regarding solar panels, attending the next planning commission meeting, and the beach pavilion.

Ms. Fiedler commented on land development regulations (LDRs), comprehensive plan, green buildings to include definition, and incentives.

A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Ms. Pachota, to invite Kimley-Horn's consultant to the June meeting to discuss language that can go into the LDRs and zoning regulation to encourage use of solar.

Discussion followed regarding consultant cost, LDRs, promoting solar, recommendations by the engineering department, solar restrictions in downtown, educating the community, Sierra Club, water conservation, and strategic plan.

Mr. Courtney withdrew his motion and Ms. Pachota withdrew her second.

Discussion ensued on solar panel changes and options, restrictions, plan to add solar in the future, concern with solar being obsolete, solar panel

wiring, Venice Library solar panels, Friends of the Library, cost of electrical in the library, where to get LDC proposals, current regulations, MuniCode, providing recommendations to the planning division, fuel and kilowatt reduction, and request for solar panels in new city facilities.

[18-3246](#)

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair

Discussion took place on electing a vice chair. Ms. Pachota volunteered to be vice chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Stone, to elect Ms. Pachota as vice chair. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Discussion took place on red turtle parking lights, color of lighting, shielding, code, Mr. Clinch obtaining data on lighting and providing a copy of the code to the board, protecting land use for wildlife, and code enforcement.

Discussion followed regarding idling times of city vehicles, police cars, raising awareness, Fleet Manager Travis Hout making a presentation at the next meeting, and reducing environmental carbon footprint and fuel consumption.

V. Unfinished Business

[18-3141](#)

Update on the Ready for 100 Campaign

Mr. Jones provided an update on council's decision on the Ready for 100 campaign resolution.

Ms. Fieder spoke regarding contact with the city manager, resolution target date, amending the request, matrix, Sarasota County's model, energy efficiency, and recommended the board provide input during rewriting of the LDRs.

VI. Updates

There were none.

VII. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

VIII. Board Discussion

Discussion followed on the board's next meeting date.

IX. Audience Participation

There was none.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary