



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

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Wednesday, June 27, 2018

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### 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, Nick Flerlage, Ronald Courtney and David M. Stone  
**Absent** 2 - Jane Morgan and George Davis

### Also Present

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

### III. Approval of Minutes

[18-3375](#) Minutes of the April 25, 2018 Regular Meeting

**A motion was made by Mr. Courtney, seconded by Ms. Pachota, to approve the April 25, 2018 meeting minutes as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

### IV. Audience Participation

Boonie Hurley, past president of the Venice Area Audubon Society, spoke about birds in the city, monitoring eagle nests, and responded to questions regarding bird monitoring at beaches.

Mary King, member of the Venice Area Audubon Society and the Center for Quality and Innovation, noted interest in Florida native plants and landscaping, and inquired on the Ready for 100% campaign.

Discussion followed regarding Ready for 100% campaign, land development code (LDC), increasing solar, and working with other governmental agencies to help issues with red tide.

Mr. Stone commented on the Venice Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and beach nesting.

## V. New Business

### [18-3376](#)

#### Fleet Manager Travis Hout: Idling Times of City Vehicles

Mr. Hout provided a presentation and spoke to GPS monitoring in vehicles, tracking fuel usage and idling times, estimated fuel costs on idling times, and the amount of vehicles idling.

Mr. Jones commented on bucket trucks' power take off (PTO).

Mr. Hout commented on vehicle efficiency, and responded to questions regarding tracking timeframe, GPS installation, operational changes, vehicle life of solid waste management trucks and police cars, and electric and hybrid vehicles.

Mr. Hout spoke on charging stations and responded to questions regarding constant cycling of city vehicles, and available data on electric and hybrid vehicle shelf life.

### [18-3377](#)

#### Discussion on "Skip the Straw" Program

Ms. Pachota spoke regarding Sharky's Restaurant's progress on skip the straw to include customer complaints, biodegradable paper straws, steel straw concept, costs, and responded to questions regarding the sanitation of steel straws.

Discussion followed on recommending council suggest restaurants to implement the program, reducing plastic in the waste stream, plastic bag resolution, initial costs to restaurants, and Ms. Pachota finding out cost on recycling steel straws.

Ms. Pachota noted restaurants are aware of the program.

Discussion continued on safety and liability concerns on steel straws, continuing discussion at the next meeting, price increasing on waste and recycables, and recommending straws being optional or at customers request.

## VI. Unfinished Business

### [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)

Mr. Courtney spoke to building permit fees and estimates, reducing the fees to encourage solar by developers, financial incentives, and responded

to questions regarding solar panel fees.

Mr. Clinch responded to questions regarding building permit solar fees, and noted fees are based on the type of project.

Discussion followed on reducing permit fees, builders getting a fast track on permits, reducing the city's income, including language on solar in the LDC, and the sunshine law.

Discussion took place regarding ordinance on open bed trucks and Mr. Stone researching this item.

**VII. Updates**

Ms. Fiedler spoke regarding the public safety facility, air and noise pollution ordinances, outdoor burning, urban forest, land development regulation (LDR) updates, fast tracking permits, reducing permit costs for solar, suggested the board provide ideas to incorporate in the air and noise pollution ordinances, and commented on the strategic plan matrix for reducing fuel and electricity consumption.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items**

There were none.

**IX. Board Discussion**

There was none.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary