



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, December 19, 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 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Absent 2 - Jane Morgan and Donna Pachota

Also Present

Liaison Council Member John Holic, Assistant City Attorney David Jackson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, and Recording Secretary Adrian Jimenez.

III. Approval of Minutes

[18-3649](#)

Minutes of the October 24, 2018 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Jones, that the Minutes of the October 24, 2018 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. Presentation

[18-3650](#)

Fred MacNamara and Bruce Balck: Rethinking Plastic Sarasota

Mr. Balck provided a presentation on Rethinking Plastic Sarasota and accomplishments.

Mr. MacNamara provided a presentation on the problem with plastics, weight of plastics, recycling, throwing away plastics, drinking straws, plastic litter, decomposing, and water systems.

Mr. Balck spoke on plastic leach into water and food, single use plastics, and BADFive logo.

Mr. MacNamara spoke on take away containers, plastic trilogy to include straws, lids and cups, alternatives to plastics, plastic bags, and alternatives

to bags.

Mr. Balck spoke on reusables.

Mr. MacNamara spoke on alternative utensils.

Mr. Balck spoke on alternatives to plastic to include plant based, glass, aluminum foil, stainless steel, difference one bag makes, greenwashing, Polylactic Acid (PLA), biodegradables, toolbox to include restaurant alternatives, dirty secrets of PLA, best practices, Skip the Straw campaign, relevant articles, meetings with Farmers Market, the carrot approach to include education through email, media, Chamber of Commerce website, paper signage, and awards for participating businesses.

Mr. MacNamara spoke on drain signs and plogging against pollution.

Mr. Balck spoke on parking lot pollution, county laws, St. Petersburg and Miami Beach bans on plastic straws, Preemption Law 2008, and Coral Gables ban.

Mr. MacNamara spoke on merchants of Venice, Be the Solution of Plastic Pollution calendar, eight ways to reduce plastic waste, rethinking plastic flyer, and answered board questions on thinking design, cost, effort, laws, education, recycling, Coral Gables challenges, economic data, green restaurant associations, and establishing an awards system.

Discussion took place on state laws, resolutions, restrictions, alternatives, payments for plastic bags, and requirements.

Mr. MacNamara answered board questions on how to spread the message.

[18-3678](#)

Venice Main Street: "Save the Straw" and Biodegradable Take Out Containers

Erin Silk, Venice MainStreet, spoke on Save the Straw initiative and read support letter from the president of Venice MainStreet.

Rod Nafziger, Venice MainStreet, spoke on cost, alternative methods, customer preference, take home containers, city needs, utensils, and education.

Discussion took place on merchant participation, convenient take out, tourism, economic vitality, education, tasting utensils, alternatives, and biodegradables.

Mr. Nafziger answered board questions on signage and marketing.

Discussion continued on table placard, biodegradable cost, and financial burdens.

Mr. MacNamara spoke on takeout containers, alternative cost, quality of food, container size, bag size, and answered board questions on finances, education in schools, and autism spectrum.

Mr. Courtney left the dais at 1:54 p.m. and returned at 1:56 p.m.

[18-3652](#)

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez 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

Assistant City Attorney David Jackson spoke on sunshine law articles, hallway conversations, private meetings and answered board questions on unnoticed meetings, engaging discussions, false perceptions, and email responses.

Ms. Stelzer spoke on unnoticed meetings, email responses, strategic planning, and answered board questions on speaking as a representative of the board vs., speaking as an audience member.

Mr. Jackson answered board questions on social media, and writing in response to newspaper articles.

Ms. Stelzer spoke on public records, social media and documentation.

Mr. Jackson answered board questions on misinformation, informational meetings, organization involvement, voting, and conflict of interest, and continued his presentation on sunshine law articles to include violations, and private and city emails.

Ms. Stelzer spoke on city and private emails.

Mr. Jackson spoke on public record articles to include text messages, city and private cell phones, handling of record requests, and city and private email accounts.

Ms. Stelzer spoke on unopened emails.

Mr. Jackson continued on public record articles to include criminal charges and violations.

V. 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)

Discussion took place on rewriting letters to city council, fees, waiving fees, encouraging solar panels and roof tops, recommendation to city council, homeowners, federal tax credit, no state tax credit, cost, required inspectors, hot water heaters, permit fees, roofing panel tile costs, single family permit cost, value of house, incentives, solar installation, and recommending a waiver or reduction.

Mr. Courtney will speak with building code inspection for information for next agenda.

Discussion continued on fees and language on the agenda.

[18-3538](#)

Proposal for City Letter to State on Approval of 2010 State Water Management Project

Discussion took place on Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and the boards next meeting date.

Discussion followed on Mr. Jones researching information on stormwater to include funding.

VI. Audience Participation

There was none.

VII. New Business

[18-3651](#)

Discuss Placement of Mini Reefs under Piers

Discussion took place on recommending purchasing mini reefs to city council, discounts, water traffic, effects on fishermen, clam usage, education, cleaning mechanism, location of boxes, cost, effectiveness, Red Tide, discussion with Ron Musselman, creeks, inlet, county agreement, nutrients, and experiments.

Mr. Stone volunteered to research the cost amount needed and location of boxes for next meeting.

[18-3658](#)

Discuss Clams are Working for Humanity to Fight Florida's Red Tide

This item was discussed under 18-3651.

[18-3540](#)

Discuss Planning Commission Placing Florida Friendly Landscaping for all New Developments for Open Space and Resident Yards

There was board consensus to discuss this item at the February 27, 2019 meeting.

[18-3541](#)

Discuss City Sending an invitation for all Existing HOA's 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 HOA's to Adjust their Community Wide Standards for Florida Friendly Landscape

There was board consensus to discuss this item at the February 27, 2019 meeting.

[18-3543](#)

Discuss Enforcement of Section 54-5, Hauling Solid Waste, Code of Ordinances (Stone)

There was board consensus to discuss this item at the February 27, 2019 meeting.

VIII. Updates

IX. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Jones will follow up with Venice MainStreet on take home containers, plastics, and education.

Mr. Courtney spoke on Venice stormwater surveys from the Gondolier, stormwater letter on city of comprehensive plan, and consultant needed.

Mr. Jones will talk with Chair Snyder to give planning commission input on Land Development Regulations (LDR) for environmental aspects.

X. Board Discussion

Discussion took place on Willow Chase landscaping plan, waivers, Florida Friendly planning, and rules and regulations.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary