



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

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Wednesday, April 28, 2021

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

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[21-5008](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

### I. Call to Order

Chair Tom Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

**Present** 7 - Ronald Courtney, George Davis, Sandra Petway, Michael Campbell, Joy Bush, Tom Jones and Serenaty Lumpkin

**Absent** 1 - Nick Flerlage

### Also Present

Also present were Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce, Deputy City Clerk Danielle Lewis, and Recording Secretary Toni Cone.

In-person: Mr. Jones, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Davis, Ms. Petway, and Mr. Campbell

Via video-conference: Ms. Bush and Ms. Lumpkin

### III. Approval of Minutes

[21-5009](#)

Minutes of February 24, 2021 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Petway, that the Minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

### IV. Audience Participation

**21-5027**

Audience Participation and Materials

Bob Stewart, 4176 Summertree Road, discussed wastewater, solar energy, solution to carbon issue, trees, concrete, sugar cane, lead water contamination, phosphorus, municipal waste plants, septic tanks, agricultural runoff, methane, red tide, technology, and answered board questions.

## V. New Business

### [21-5010](#)

Request for Environmental Advisory Board to Recommend to City Council That Use of Round-up by City Staff or on City Property is Prohibited

Board discussion occurred regarding whether to recommend to the city to reduce or eliminate use of Roundup and its generic equivalents (glyphosate), whether the city currently uses it, what other products may be in use, and natural alternatives.

Chair Jones commented that he will contact the city to inquire as to what products they are currently using and the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) will discuss further at the June meeting.

Mr. Courtney noted that the planning commission will be holding a workshop regarding the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) update and section 88 - environmental is the next area to be covered.

### [21-5011](#)

Discussion on Approved Resolution 2021-02 Guidelines for Boards (Mr. Courtney)

Board discussion occurred regarding Resolution 2021-02 Guidelines for Boards, communication, board priorities, reporting to city council, and how often the EAB should meet.

## VI. Updates

### [21-5012](#)

Recommend to Send Information on Pasta Straws to Venice Area Chamber of Commerce and Venice MainStreet for their Consideration and Distribution to Local Eateries (Mr. Courtney)

Board discussion occurred regarding alternatives to plastic straws, some made out of a canola oil derivative, some made out of pasta, local businesses that use various alternatives, pricing, the possibility of requesting city council make a recommendation to Venice MainStreet and Venice Area Chamber of Commerce to encourage its member businesses to offer alternatives to plastic straws to their customers, educating the public, food service vendors, consumer habits, and cost.

Ms. Lumpkin discussed a project for upcycling single-use plastic.

Mr. Courtney recommended the EAB send a draft letter to city council for them to send to Venice MainStreet and the chamber to share with member businesses encouraging recyclable/biodegradable options, and offered to bring a draft letter to the next EAB meeting.

Board discussion ensued regarding the focus of the letter and if it should

recommend recyclable and biodegradable options for all single-use items or just straws, the role of the EAB in reference to making recommendations or changing behaviors, and encouraging EAB members to inquire at their favorite restaurants regarding take-out options.

[21-5013](#)

Discuss Floating Gardens (Mr. Courtney)

Discussion took place regarding floating garden islands that absorb nutrients in water and neutralize nitrogen, and considering recommending city council send a letter to Homeowners Associations (HOAs).

Board discussion ensued regarding evaluating floating garden islands further at the next meeting after members watch the YouTube video, and having EAB members ask their HOAs to consider implementing this idea.

[20-4826](#)

Resolution Opposing Marine Fish Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico

Board discussion occurred regarding a news article on April 4, 2021 and noted the national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit issued to Ocean Era for a fish farm in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico is under review, and what action the EAB should take.

**A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Chair Jones, to recommend to city council, based on the issues raised in the previous resolution from December 8, 2020 that they send a letter to Craig Hesterlee of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional 4 office asking the EPA to rescind the permit that was given to Ocean Era until further scientific review of the project is completed. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

## **VII. Future Agenda Items**

## **VIII. Board Discussion**

Ms. Lumpkin noted that the EAB should keep trying and they will make progress.

**21-5021**

Written Communication

## IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary