



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

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Wednesday, November 30, 2016

2:30 PM

Community Hall

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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 2:30 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

**Present** 5 - Chair Tom Jones, Tracy Ivey, Margaret Fiedler, Nick Flerlage and Ronald Courtney

**Absent** 3 - Jane Morgan, Donna Pachota and Andrea Stultz

### Also Present

Stormwater Engineer James Clinch and Recording Secretary Michelle Girvan.

### III. Approval of Minutes

[16-2221](#) Minutes of the August 24, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Flerlage, seconded by Ms. Ivey, that the Minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

### IV. New Business

[16-2346](#) Bob Vedder, America in Bloom Status (15 mins)

Mr. Vedder provided a presentation and overview regarding America in Bloom and stating that it is a non-profit organization, a national competition of cities all over America, and spoke in regards to funding by citizens of the city and Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), judges from all over the country, sponsors, restaurants, entrance fee, symposium, judging of categories, judging of the overall city, evaluation report, numerical style grading, process of the event, and the city being up against three other cities in the competition.

The presentation continued regarding Venice being a four star rating, rating of other cities, former mayor of California being one of the judges,

Calabasas, California winning the America in Bloom last year, Florida law and recycling, landfill, community involvement in recycling, teaching the youth, alternative energy sources, community communication regarding the environment, and Sarasota tree ordinances.

Mr. Vedder answered questions from board members to include seasonal residents communications and challenges, growth oriented cities, parks advisory board and master plan, recycling, suggestion of Bob Moroni speaking at the next environmental advisory board (EAB) meeting, tree advisory board, list of recommendations, areas of focus, how EAB can be of assistance for America in Bloom, impact of board, landscaping, certified owners, and timeframe with judges.

Discussion took place regarding judges, door hangers, homes that were recognized by America in Bloom, process of America in Bloom and contestants, tree removal, spreadsheet and level of detail, environmental suggestions, recognition program, recommendations for the city, environmentalist for the city, and arboretums.

## V. Unfinished Business

### 16-2347

#### Plastic Bag Limitation and Recycling Plan Discussion

Mr. Jones spoke in regards to the plastic bag limitation and city council's denial, change of thinking and behavior of recycling bags, charge for the use of bags, education, resolution, revisit of bag recycling and resubmit to city council, county standpoint if not citywide, lessening of impact, viewpoint from council liaison, resolution to join other cities, ordinances with other cities coming together, vote from city council, passing of resolutions, and state laws and use of plastic bags.

Discussion took place regarding the limitation of plastic bag use, suggested forms of recycling bins, changing of mindset, information literature, bag limitation not ban, reuse of bags, penalization of bag use, program for the increase in recycling bins, resubmit resolution to city council stating that it is a resolution not a ban or law, revisit at the next EAB meeting with new ideas, benchmarks, accomplishments, raise awareness and reduce litter, and public meetings and input.

Discussion continued in regards to a suggestion of speaking at other advisory board meetings regarding plastic bag use, outlook for 2017, and Mr. Jones meeting with city council members.

Discussion ensued regarding Surfriders presentation of the ban of plastic bags and view from the city.

**A motion was made by Ms. Fiedler, seconded by Chair Jones, to pass the resolution and suggest the chair resubmit to city council for approval. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

**VI. Updates**16-2348**Comprehensive Plan Update**

Mr. Clinch spoke in regards to the comprehensive plan with discussion taking place regarding the draft and open spaces, reduction of the plan, tactical issues, land development and zoning code, EAB's input, public hearings in the community, and suggestion of Mr. Shrum updating the board regarding the plan.

Discussion continued regarding reserves and minimums, apartment developments, parks master plan meeting date and time, and the review of the parks master plan.

**VII. Future Agenda Items**

Adding the plastic bag limitation to the next EAB meeting agenda.

**VIII. Board Discussion**

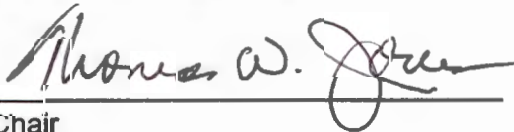
Discussion took place regarding the objectives and items to focus on for 2017.

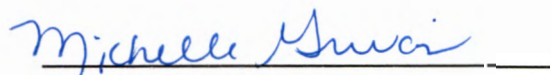
**IX. Audience Participation**

No one signed up to speak.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

  
Chair

  
Recording Secretary