



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Environmental Advisory Board

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

1:00 PM

Community Hall

I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held this date in Community Hall at City Hall. Chair Tom Jones called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Absent 2 - George Davis and Sandra Petway

Also Present

Deputy City Clerk Danielle Lewis

III. Approval of Minutes

19-4083

Minutes of the June 26, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Jones, that the Minutes of the June 26, 2019 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

IV. New Business

19-4087

Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI): Discuss Forestry of the Venice Trail and Other Environmental Projects

VABI President Bill Willson discussed the Venice Trail and board members congratulated VABI on the urban renewal work being done.

Mr. Willson said it took seven years to build Venetian Waterway Park and over 600 trees have been planted.

Mr. Willson said VABI is trying to create a stopping place for migratory birds. The trail is all natural, without concrete or benches, and can be entered from Venetian Waterway Park. He mentioned installation of a sprinkler system for the first phase of the trail using reuse rain water.

Discussion ensued on the butterfly garden at the entrance in the industrial section on Seaboard Avenue.

In response to a board member question about bike riding, Mr. Willson said the trail is intended more for pedestrians and wildlife.

Mr. Willson clarified that Urban Forest is a committee of VABI and that all of the work is being done with volunteer labor and grant money.

Board members expressed their desire to review the draft land development regulations with VABI once they receive the same.

Discussion ensued on the possibility for the Wildlife Center of Venice to coordinate with Urban Forest to discuss different species of animals and birds.

19-4086

Discuss Installation of Residential Solar Energy Systems

Mr. Jones advised that Mr. Flerlage is working on a letter to the city to encourage the community to use solar.

Discussion ensued on the federal tax credit reduction for solar.

Discussion ensued about Florida Power & Light (FPL) and their involvement with solar power. Board members noted that there is a cap on the amount to be sold back to the power company.

Discussion ensued on insurance and installation costs of solar panels.

Discussion followed about an article published in the Venice Gondolier about energy efficiency and if developers could be encouraged to install energy efficient appliances and better insulation. Comments were made that green building is very expensive.

Board members asked that language be included in the letter to the City to request that FPL accelerate meter installation times.

V. Unfinished Business - None

VI. Updates

18-3540

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

Discussion ensued about landscaping in communities and what can be done.

Mr. Willson commented that the city is at about 27% canopy and the city arborist would like to see canopy at 30%.

Discussion ensued about recent State legislation relative to tree regulations.

Discussion ensued about maintenance-free developments and if anything was approved by the city.

Mr. Willson said VABI is abiding by the county's ordinance but will follow the city's tree ordinance once adopted.

Discussion ensued on if Florida Friendly landscaping could be included in the land development regulations.

18-3541

Discuss City Sending an Invitation for all Existing Homeowners Association (HOAs) 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 HOAs to Adjust their Community Wide Standards for Florida Friendly Landscape

Discussion ensued about the prospect of holding a special meeting to discuss the land development regulations once the rough draft is available.

Board members suggested that City Council and Environmental Advisory Board have a joint workshop after the November election.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Board members discussed items for the meeting scheduled for October 23, 2019 and future including a presentation on red tide/water quality and local history, the Venice restaurant survey, single-stream recycling, and sun screen's impacts on coral reefs.

VIII. Board Discussion

There was none.

IX. Audience Participation

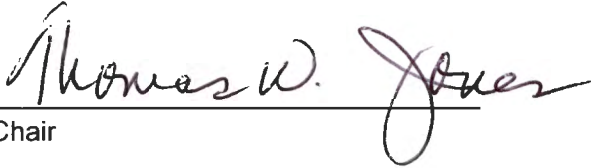
Jane M. Mack said that new lighting installed by the Winn Dixie parking lot could deter ospreys from nesting there. She shared that a property on Johnson Lane with an absentee landlord has accumulated a lot of trash and she spoke with code enforcement officer Jim Davis who advised there are laws in place about turtles and lighting in that area but nothing else.

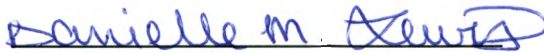
Discussion ensued on osprey platforms and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and board members advised that they do not have any enforcement power.

Mr. Willson said VABI is creating habitats for ospreys in the urban forest.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.


Chair


Deputy City Clerk
