



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

Agenda

City of Pensacola
222 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

September 4, 2025, 2:00 PM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

One or more members of City Council may be in attendance.

The meeting can be watched via live stream at cityofpensacola.com/video.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 25-1162 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED JULY 10, 2025 AND WORKSHOP DATED AUGUST 7, 2025.

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the meeting minutes for the Regular meeting dated July 10, 2025 and the Workshop dated August 7, 2025.

Sponsors: Katie Dineen - Chair

Attachments: EAB Minutes 07.10.2025
EAB Workshop Minutes 08.07.2025

PRESENTATIONS

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEMS

2. 25-1163 REQUEST FOR USE OF TREE PLANTING TRUST FUNDS FOR THE FY26 TREE CANOPY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) review the administration's request for the use of \$131,000 from the Tree Planting Trust Fund for the FY26 Tree Canopy Revitalization Project. Further that the EAB provide a recommendation to City Council.

Sponsors: Katie Dineen - Chair

Attachments: *None*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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City of Pensacola

222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Memorandum

File #: 25-1162

Environmental Advisory Board

9/4/2025

ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: Katie Dineen - Chair

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED JULY 10, 2025 AND WORKSHOP DATED AUGUST 7, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the meeting minutes for the Regular meeting dated July 10, 2025 and the Workshop dated August 7, 2025.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

On July 10, 2025, the EAB held its regular meeting and on August 7, 2025, it held a Workshop. This item approves the minutes for both of those meetings.

PRIOR ACTION:

July 10, 2025 -- EAB Regular Meeting held.
August 7, 2025 -- EAB Workshop held.

FUNDING:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive

Katherine Alexander, Environmental Coordinator
Chase Crawford, City Arborist

ATTACHMENTS:

1. EAB Minutes 07.10.2025
2. EAB Workshop Minutes 08.07.2025

PRESENTATION: No



City of Pensacola

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

City of Pensacola
222 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL
32502

July 10, 2025

2:00 PM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dineen. A quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Katie Dineen, Chair, Neil Richards, Vice Chair, Kelly Hagen, Blase Butts, Mark Gottschalk, Jordan Poole

Members Absent: Katie Fox, Rachel Mahone, Jay Massey

Also Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Sonja Gaines, Council Assistant, Katherine Alexander, Environmental Coordinator, Chase Crawford, Arborist, Wendy Gavin, Street and Traffic Operations Division Manager, Chelsea Mahan, Christian Wagley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 25-942 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED MARCH 6, 2025 & WORKSHOP DATED APRIL 3, 2025

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approved the meeting minutes from the March 6, 2025, regular meeting and the April 3, 2025, Workshop.

Motion made by member Butts, seconded by Member Hagen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting dated March 6, 2025, and the minutes of the workshop dated April 3, 2025. The motion carried 6 – 0, with three members absent.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

2. 25-943 STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: UPDATES: RECYCLING & BAYVIEW SOLAR PROJECT

Recommendation: That the EAB receive staff communications.

Katherine Alexander, Environmental Coordinator, provided an update on the Bayview Solar project. A firm was selected; however, due to uncertainty of grant funds, the project is on pause until October.

Regarding recycling, she got a brief update from Darryl Singleton, Energy Services and Sanitation Director. Right now, the recycling program is residential only.

She also provided information on several grants that have recently opened. One is with Resilient Florida for planning and implementation grants. In 2021, the city received a planning grant for a vulnerability assessment, which the city completed, and is now looking for ideas defined in that vulnerability assessment for implementation. The second grant opportunity is through the Pensacola Perdido Bays Estuary Program for solar trash compactors, like ones placed by an Impact 100 grant to Ocean Hour.

Regarding recycling, Member Butts inquired whether recycling dumpsters like those located on Summit Boulevard are being considered for placement downtown, especially for cardboard boxes. Eighty percent of the cardboard gets recycled in the United States and with the number of businesses and restaurants having cardboard from deliveries, it might be something to consider.

Environmental Coordinator also investigated the possibility of creating a naturalistic landscaping program and reached out to Leif Olsen with the City of Fayetteville regarding their naturalistic landscaping plan and how they went about establishing it. He suggested focusing on native plants but also mix in some rain gardens and things to help with stormwater mitigation. Fayetteville has a landscape architect and horticulturist on staff that help manage their program. She will do some further research on this with City staff.

Member Butts volunteered to research to see if other cities in Florida may have a similar program which will focus on Florida soil and native plants.

Further discussion occurred on the process and length of time it would take to bring something forward to City Council. As things are developed, the EAB could schedule a workshop on the proposal. The establishment of a naturalistic landscaping program can be kept in staff communications so that periodic updates can be presented.

Chair Dineen asked if the EAB's recommendations for changes to the Land Development Code had been forwarded to Inspire and if there was any feedback from them.

Council Executive indicated the recommendations have been forwarded to them.

Staff and the Mayor's Office are currently reviewing the 2nd iteration of the proposed changes from Inspire and suggested that once they are finished and available, the EAB could hold a workshop to review.

ACTION ITEMS

3. 25-944 CANOPY RESTORATION GRANT APPLICATION 2025

Recommendation: That the EAB review the grant application from the Citizen's Canopy Restoration group. Further, that the EAB make a recommendation regarding funding to the City Council, if deemed appropriate.

Chelsea Mahan with the Citizen's Canopy Restoration Group provided an update on previous tree plantings from grants received in 2022, 2023, and 2025. So far, every tree that they have planted has survived. They are requesting \$5,500 to be used for tree planting within the city limits in the Brownsville neighborhood. They are also working with the County simultaneously to receive funds for tree planting in the county area.

Member Butts inquired whether any thought was given to planting trees where there are asphalt lots.

Chelsea Mahan indicated that they take participants from individuals who are willing to commit to take care of the tree for the first year, plus an additional year. They have not looked at working with businesses and what would be required.

Wendy Gavin, Streets and Traffic Operations Division Manager, indicated that they are working on a plan to bring to the Environmental Advisory Board that would utilize some of the tree planting trust funds in areas that meet the criteria for disadvantaged and heat island areas to be able to get it bid for planting in December.

Member Gottschalk motioned to approve the tree canopy restoration grant application submitted by Canopy Restoration, Inc. for up to \$5,500, seconded by Chair Dineen. The motion carried 5 – 0, with Member Hagen abstaining and three members absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Gottschalk informed the Board that this was his last meeting. He is moving to the Netherlands.

Member Butts is taking the Florida Master Naturalist Gardner's Environmental Interpretive class next week. Also, as part of the \$100,000 Impact grant to Ocean Hour, they have installed four cold water bottle fill stations in various parks and, since Christmas, have filled up 16,000 bottles. They are located at Bayview Park, Exchange Park, Roger Scott and behind the Blue Wahoo's Stadium. They are also looking forward to raising funds for more metal sculptured dolphin statues that you can fill with aluminum cans.

Chair Dineen mentioned the planning for the Children's Earth Day celebration in the fall on October 18th at the From the Ground Up Community Garden, focused on kids having hands on experience with compost, solar, toys and baking. Anyone wanting to help, reach out to her, Christian Wagley, or Elizabeth Eubanks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christian Wagley announced the next slow ride for July 18 at End of the Line Café. Also mentioned the LDC updates and the importance of the impact it will have on the environment.

Tentatively set a workshop for Thursday, August 7, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



City of Pensacola

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

City of Pensacola
222 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL
32502

August 7, 2025

2:00 PM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Dineen. A quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Katie Dineen, Chair, Neil Richards, Vice Chair, Kelly Hagen, Jay Massey, Jordan Poole

Members Absent: Blase Butts, Katie Fox, Rachel Mahone, one vacant position

Also Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Sonja Gaines, Council Assistant, Katherine Alexander, Environmental Coordinator, Chase Crawford, Arborist, Wendy Gavin, Street and Traffic Operations Division Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. 25-1033 STAFF - PROJECTS UPDATE

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) receive a presentation providing an update on upcoming projects. Further to allow for a discussion regarding funding certain portions of the projects.

Wendy Gavin -- 2025/2026 Tree Planting Update

Wendy Gavin, Street and Traffic Operations Division Manager reviewed the

PowerPoint presentation providing an update regarding current and upcoming projects and providing an opportunity to discuss funding certain portions of the projects. Items reviewed included the proposed base plantings, additional proposed planting, 2026 Arbor Day Event, budget—cost estimates, project timeline, accomplishments and future goals.

The Base Plantings tackle both heat islands and the disadvantaged areas, as well as bus and pedestrian traffic, much like the original \$1 million dollar grant areas covered. They are proposing an estimate of 33 native trees for a total cost of approximately \$70,000. Also reviewed the types of trees and locations for the most appropriate trees to plant. The trees will be maintained and watered for two years until established by the outside contractor selected through the bid process.

Review of the project timeline anticipates approval by the EAB and City Council in September, bid solicitation through September 30, City Council award of bid in December and actual tree planting starting in January – February. The budget cost estimates were reviewed.

To maintain the Tree City USA status, one event needs to be held. The planned Arbor Day event will be held on January 19th and will be like the tree giveaway that was held last year. Arbor Day supplied the trees to give away. It will be held at a different location.

Accomplishments for FY 2025 included the planting of approximately 80 trees from the tree planting trust fund, updates to the City's website, identifying the local state champion magnolia and potential National Champion in Pensacola, and another possible state championship Darlington Oak in East Pensacola Heights. Identified clearance needs for firetrucks and other tall vehicles are ongoing with Parks and Pensacola Fire Department. At the community outreach event with green Infrastructure and Florida Forest Service, a lot of very good information and potential assistance was shared about potential canopy improvement. There's a potential for a grant to cover the maintenance of existing trees. Also, trees of concern and trees to watch for unpermitted removal were identified. There have been more than 240 tree permit requests reviewed.

Goals for FY 2026 include finishing updates to the tree ordinance with the LDC review, hosting an Arbor Day Event to give away 250 trees, continuing working with Parks and Pensacola Fire Department for firetruck clearances, planting 30 to 60 trees using Tree Trust Funds in heat island, sidewalk and bus stop areas, collect funds from tree ordinance violations for the Tree Trust fund, work with FDOT for planting blanket approval, continue community outreach and education to schedule a workshop for community tree care to educate contractors and residents about the tree ordinance and review tree permits and landscape plans within 3 weeks of submittal.

The Board took a straw vote and unanimously approved moving forward with the tree planting proposals, as presented. The proposal will be on the Regular Board Meeting agenda for the September meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Street and Traffic Operations Division Manager informed the Board of a new program in Public Works called Cartograph, which is an electronic map of all the assets, and trees have been identified on the map. There are about 14,000 trees on the public right of ways and public lands that are identified in the system. Environmental Coordinator reached out to the Code Enforcement Office regarding weed complaints as they might relate to the naturalistic landscaping plan and is awaiting response. Also mentioned the Party in the Park events scheduled for the Hollice T. Williams Park improvement project. Chair Dineen announced a meeting with planning group for the Eco Kids event at From the Ground Up on October 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.



City of Pensacola

222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Memorandum

File #: 25-1163

Environmental Advisory Board

9/4/2025

ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: Katie Dineen - Chair

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FOR USE OF TREE PLANTING TRUST FUNDS FOR THE FY26 TREE CANOPY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) review the administration's request for the use of \$131,000 from the Tree Planting Trust Fund for the FY26 Tree Canopy Revitalization Project. Further that the EAB provide a recommendation to City Council.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

Public Works is requesting funds be made available from the Tree Trust Fund in the amount of \$131,000. The Department also requests the Environmental Advisory Board review and recommendation to City Council to use these funds for the installation and establishment of new trees in the proposed FY26 planting in areas identified in the attached presentation.

Proposed locations were determined using the City-Wide Canopy Study with particular emphasis placed on disadvantaged areas and areas identified as heat islands. The current proposal anticipates a base planting of thirty-three (33) trees in the heat islands of disadvantaged areas with an additional twenty-nine (29) trees being installed in other heat island areas. Should obstacles occur regarding any of the proposed locations, the City-Wide Canopy Study will be utilized to determine the next best alternative.

The species of trees selected for the FY 26 planting include the Southern Magnolia, Sweetgum, Southern Live Oak, Sand Live Oak, and Eastern Red Bud. Tree plantings are best done during the winter months, and authorization of funds at this time allows staff to adhere to tight project timelines.

Section 12-6-10(c)(1) - Tree Planting Trust Fund requires that, "Any expenditure in excess of \$25,000.00 must be approved by the city council following review by the environmental advisory board." On August 7, 2025, the EAB received a presentation and responded to questions regarding this request, taking a straw vote which expressed support for the request.

This item is a formal action and ratification of that straw vote.

PRIOR ACTION:

August 7, 2025 -- EAB received a Presentation regarding the administration's request, expressing support via a straw vote.

FUNDING:

\$131,000 from the Tree Planting Trust Fund

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

An appropriated balance of \$195,301.00 is currently available in the Tree Planting Trust Fund Holding Account. The total cost of the proposed FY26 planting shall not exceed \$131,000.00 leaving a balance of \$64,301.00 in the Tree Planting Trust Fund Holding Account. If recommended by the EAB and approved by City Council, \$131,000.00 will be transferred from the current holding account to an account specifically for this FY26 project. Upon completion of the plantings, any remaining funds will be shifted back to the Tree Planting Trust Fund Holding Account.

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive
Katherine Alexander, Environmental Coordinator
Chase Crawford, City Arborist

ATTACHMENTS:

None

PRESENTATION: No