



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

Agenda

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

January 4, 2024, 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. 23-1158 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED DECEMBER 7, 2023.

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023 EAB meeting.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristen Bennet

Attachments: EAB Minutes 12.07.2023

PRESENTATIONS

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEMS

2. 23-1159 RECOMMENDATION REGARDING MOVE TO QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board make a recommendation to City Council regarding a move to quarterly meetings.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristen Bennet

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 #: 23-1158

Environmental Advisory Board

1/4/2024

ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: Chair - Kristen Bennet

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED DECEMBER 7, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023 EAB meeting.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

On December 7, 2023 the EAB held their meeting. This item seeks approval of the minutes from that meeting.

PRIOR ACTION:

December 7, 2023 -- EAB meeting held

FUNDING:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive

ATTACHMENTS:

1. EAB Minutes 12.07.2023

PRESENTATION: No



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

MINUTES

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

December 7, 2023, 2:00 PM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

Members Present: Kristin Bennett, Chair, Kelly Hagen, Katie Fox, Jay Massey, Blaise Butts, Kyle Kopytchak, Neil Richards

Members Absent: Katie Dineen, Vice Chair and one position vacant

Others Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Sonja Gaines, Council Assistant, Kris Stoltz, Arborist, Caitlin Cerame, Transportation Planner

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bennett.

ROLL CALL:

A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. 23-1052 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 7 AND OCTOBER 5, 2023, MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the minutes from their September 7 and October 5, 2023, meetings.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristin Bennett

Attachments: EAB Minutes 09.07.2023
EAB Minutes 10.5.2023

Member Massey moved for approval of the September 7, 2023 minutes, seconded by Member Hagen. The motion carried 5 – 0, with 3 members absent and one position vacant.

(Member Kopytchak arrived)

Member Massey moved for approval of the October 5, 2023 minutes, seconded by Member Butts. The motion carried 6 – 0, with 2 members absent and one position vacant.

(Member Richards arrived)

PRESENTATIONS

2. 23-1053 PRESENTATION -- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ATP)

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) receive a presentation from Caitlin Cerame regarding the Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Sponsors: Chair - Kristin Bennett

Attachments: None

Caitlin Cerame gave a presentation and update on the Active Transportation Plan (ATP), the development of the plan that was adopted in August. They developed a design guidance to help FDOT and developers that want to improve the right-of-way in front of their development. She also reviewed the Sun Trail grants they were applying for. She answered various questions from board members regarding the grants and also mentioned the newly formed staff Traffic Safety Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

3. 23-1054 PROPOSED ORDINANCE 26-23 -- RELATED TO THE REGULATION OF BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN PRUNING AND REMOVING TREES; ADOPTING APPROPRIATE INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Recommendation: That the EAB review proposed Ordinance 26-23 and provide comment.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristin Bennett

Attachments: *Proposed Ordinance 26-23 Creating Chapter 7-13*

Council Executive indicated that City Administration wanted the EAB to be aware of this item going forward to the City Council at its December meeting. If the board has any specific comments, he would compile them and give them to the City Council for their information. Right now, in the tree pruning section if violations occur, it falls on the homeowner. This proposed ordinance now shifts that burden to the business owner.

City Arborist explained that if the business is unable to pay the fine, their ability to do business in the city will cease and be suspended until they do. If they don't pay, then the fine would fall back on the property owner. In the state of Florida tree care operations are not a licensed profession.

Overall, positive and supportive comments were made by the board. Some general questions were asked and one member questioned the broadness and authority granted to the city arborist regarding violators and pulling tax receipts. Also mentioned the pre-emptions that are in place.

4. 23-1055 REQUEST TO USE FUNDS FROM THE TREE PLANTING TRUST FUND FOR PHASE II OF THE TREE CANOPY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Recommendation: That the EAB review the request to use \$50,000 from the Tree Planting Fund for Phase II of the Tree Canopy Revitalization Project.

Sponsors: Chair - Kristin Bennett

Attachments: *Request to use funds from the Tree Planting Trust Fund -23-1015*

Council Executive briefed the board on this request as per the city code. The board had several questions about the trees, locations, and flexibility in planting locations. These questions were addressed by the city arborist.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no staff communications.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Hagen brought up the role and relevancy of the board. Should the board go to quarterly meetings or possible as needed meetings.

Council Executive indicated that the city administration is in the process of hiring an environmental specialist and once that person is hired then it is anticipated that person would take on the role of staffing the board and providing some direction. Part of the reason is the form of government. The majority of things the board weighs in on are operational issues and City Council has no control over operational issues.

Board members commented on the value of the diverse backgrounds each brings to the board, clarification of the process, and how the role of the board is viewed. Most of the board members were in favor of going to quarterly meetings or meetings as needed.

Council Executive pointed out the limitations of the enabling ordinance. Since this discussion was not listed on the agenda, the public hasn't had an opportunity to weigh in on it. He suggested he could reach out to City Council to let them know the thoughts of the board and then bring an item for board action at the next meeting in January.

Further discussion occurred on the value of having presentations on various issues at board meetings, more presence at City Council meetings, and the ability to speak representing the EAB.

Chair Bennett commented on the recent publicity of CNAPP tree planting event, with member Hagen providing that they had 54 volunteers show up despite the weather, and were able to plant 88 trees. She would be delighted to provide updates to the board.

Chair Bennett also recognized Kelly Hagen for receiving the CivicCon award for the Environment and Blaise Butts with Ocean Hour receiving an Impact 100 grant for water bottle fill stations.

Chair Bennett also announced that her position on the EAB would be up in March and that she would not be seeking reappointment to the Board. Her last meeting will be in January, as she has conflicts in February.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further comments to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.