



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

Agenda

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

September 5, 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. 24-831 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED JULY 11, 2024.

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the meeting minutes from July 11, 2024.

Sponsors: Katie Dineen - Chair

Attachments: EABMinutes 07.11.2024

PRESENTATIONS

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. 24-840 DISCUSSION -- EAB GOALS & BRAINSTORMING

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board have a discussion related to Goals and Brainstorming ideas.

Sponsors: Katie Dineen - Chair

Attachments: None

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 #: 24-831

Environmental Advisory Board

9/5/2024

ACTION ITEM

SPONSOR: Katie Dineen - Chair

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED JULY 11, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the meeting minutes from July 11, 2024.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

On July 11, 2024, the EAB held a meeting. This item seeks the approval of the minutes from that meeting.

PRIOR ACTION:

July 11, 2024-- EAB meeting held.

FUNDING:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive
Katherine Kuhn, Environmental Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. EABMinutes 07.11.2024

PRESENTATION: No



City of Pensacola

Environmental Advisory Board

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

MINUTES

July 11, 2024, 2:00 PM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

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

Members Absent: Katie Fox, Rachel Mahone

Others Present: Don Kraher, Council Executive, Sonja Gaines, Council Assistant, Katherine Kuhn, Environmental Coordinator, Chase Crawford, Arborist, Mathew Pace, Bethany Miller, Matthew Wilkinson, Christian Wagley

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dineen.

1. 24-657 SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Recommendation: That the new members of the EAB be sworn in by the City Clerk's Office.

Sponsors: CHAIR - KATIE DINEEN

Attachments: None

The Oath of Office was administered by City Clerk Ericka Burnett to new members Mark Gottschalk and Jordan Poole.

New members as well as old members provided introductory remarks and their interests in the environment.

ROLL CALL:

A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. 24-656 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING DATED MAY 2, 2024

Recommendation: That the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) approve the minutes of the May 2, 2024, EAB meeting.

Sponsors: CHAIR - KATIE DINEEN

Attachments: EAB Minutes. May 2, 2024 (1)

Motion made by Member Hagen, seconded by Member Butts to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2024, meeting. The motion carried 7 – 0, with two members absent.

PRESENTATIONS:

3. 24-658 PRESENTATION - SUN FARMER'S GROUP

Recommendation: That the EAB receive a presentation from a representative of the Sun Farmer's Group

Sponsors: CHAIR - KATIE DINEEN

Attachments: None

Chair Dineen recognized representatives from the Sun Farm Group to make presentation. Mathew Pace, CFO, introduced Bethany Miller who handles grants and Mathew Wilkinson, construction engineer from the Sun Farmers Group and indicated that they were there to answer any questions the board may have regarding solar energy. They basically work with agricultural grants and some governments.

Environmental Coordinator opened discussion on the topic by asking if there were different paths to take, different tools to use in looking at solar panels, longevity wise, looking at net metering, etc.

Mathew Pace indicated that every project is different. Usually, you would start with looking at the power bills and from the usage, run it through the engineering and design factors, looking at shade features, and design for that particular facility. In Florida, we currently have net metering.

Mathew Wilkinson explained net metering. You get a one for one dollar amount for the watt amount you send to the grid; that amount can be deducted from your electric bill. There are some caps in place and not sure how much longer the net metering will be allowed in Florida. The net metering applies to both residential and commercial. Their company designs and develops solar plans throughout the nation; they do not install them. They work with a network of contractors to install the projects

Chair Dineen asked about tax credits and financial incentives that would be available for the City to use in order to get more buildings outfitted with solar energy before the net metering is no longer grandfathered in.

Mathew Pace explained the various tax credits that were passed in legislation in 2022 under the Inflation Induction Act that included governments and non-profits. There is a 30% base tax credit that is specific for project to project. Once you exceed a megawatt in size, there are some additional reporting requirements to meet wage and apprenticeship requirements the installers would have to have. Most of the City projects would probably exceed a megawatt and would therefore have to meet those additional requirements to maintain that 30% tax credit. He further explained the three adder categories—Domestic, Low Income and Energy Community.

Bethany Miller explained the various grant options available through the Department of Energy. They even have technical assistance grants. There are grant options available to transform heavy equipment to electric power. A lot of the money is being directed toward

rural areas. There is money out there for workforce development and for manufacturers that would have to work with governments.

Member Gottschalk inquired what the next step would be for the City.

Matthew Wilkinson indicated that he had been working with Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson to develop an RFP for the Bayview Community Center prior to his leaving.

Kathern Kuhn advised the board that she did have the draft RFP and has made some edits to it. They will go through the formal process to make it fair and open to the public. The Department of Energy has a grant, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The City received some funds that were noncompetitive and submitted a formal application in May for the Bayview Center project. Hopefully we will hear back from them in late July or August. She is compiling information and data on the City's energy consumption for buildings, facilities, traffic/street lights, and fleet vehicles.

Further discussion occurred on where to go from here; getting the project designed; if action by the board is necessary; knowledge of Campus Systems; and if FPL allows, use of brownfields as possible locations; maintenance of the projects that are set up for the duration of the project; how long it takes to get and financially set up the project.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

4. 24-660 STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Recommendation: That the EAB receive information as presented by Staff.

Sponsors: CHAIR - KATIE DINEEN

Attachments: None

Katherine Kuhn provided staff updates, thanking the board members for their time to meet with her one-on-one, taking into account their suggestions and organizations to connect with. She's been researching other cities in Florida with similar boards and had a great conversation with the program administrator for the City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board. She will be working on a written, easy-to-reference document covering information about the EAB, process and procedures.

Recently renewed membership with ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and will use their software ClearPath to update the % renewable energy calculation. Plan to become a member of FLERA (Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies). Escambia County and the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) are the only members in Northwest Florida. That organization has an annual conference in September at Pensacola Beach. Also, plan to renew the membership with the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN). They connect local government sustainability professionals throughout the region to accelerate, scale, and implement sustainable best practices so that communities are equipped to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

As mentioned earlier, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant will help fund the installation and integration of a solar and battery system for Bayview Community Center. The application was submitted in late May and should hear back on the status of the application in late July/August. Will either get the go ahead or need to edit the application. If receive the go ahead, the next step will be to announce the request for proposal that will be a design/build proposal.

Connections were made with Ameresco, a renewable energy and efficiency company that will initiate a pilot project, the focus will be on energy efficiency of City Hall. Part of the formula for our 30% renewable energy by 2030 goal is energy efficiency. It is great to have solar, but it is also important to lower our need for energy.

Member Hagen inquired about the inclusion of the battery system for Bayview Park.

Katherine Kuhn explained that it was probably to be used as some sort of resiliency hub, when storms come through, there will be back-up there. It will be a great model so that it could be replicated at other community centers in the area, especially those that are popular and necessary during storms, etc.

She recognized Chase Crawford, the City's Arborist and asked him to make introductory comments.

Chase Crawford, Arborist made brief comments about his background.

Council Executive indicated that this is the first time in a number of years that the EAB has its full complement of 9 members. Collaboratively, he will be working with Katherine and Chase to create an enabling document that is better, that gets the full use out of the board and uses their expertise in a way that is beneficial to both the City Council and the Mayor's office.

In operating in this form of government, when you start comparing other cities, you may be comparing apples to oranges. We operate under a Mayor/Council form of government, which functions differently than a Council/Manager form of government. If it is an operational issue, that falls on the Mayor's office. The City Council can't require the Mayor to do anything. There are two branches—the legislative and executive. Functionally, it works better to work through Katherine, so that she can address through the Mayor's office and administration and have a completed item to bring to City Council. As an example, the Board sent a recommendation to the City Council for 30% renewable energy by 2030 which was approved by Council without a great deal of looking down the road as far as cost wise, how to get there. It didn't go through the administrative side first. Work is still going on to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to make a difference. How we can, as a group, work collaboratively on these issues. Working with Chase on the tree planting grant application, how to get more trees in the ground and protect the existing trees that we have. Just because you don't see anything happening externally that you can point to doesn't mean they are not being worked on internally. The Mayor created a grants office and they are working on various grants for various city departments

The primary focus, from a board standpoint, is to work on the enabling document so that the board, City Council and the Mayor's Office have a much clearer direction and utilize the board in a clearer direction in getting those things that they need.

Chair Dineen inquired if at the next meeting, scheduled for September 5, would there be a draft document for the Board to review and have input on and have an item on the agenda or at least an update on the agenda for the September meeting.

Council Executive indicated that he would work with Katherine and try to have a rough draft ready for the September meeting.

Member Gottschalk asked a procedural question with regard to how to get items on the agenda and frequency of meetings.

Council Executive explained that during board discussion, members can bring something up or if there is something members would like on the agenda, contact him ahead of time to prepare an item for the agenda. It serves two purposes: it provides notice to the other board members so that they can be prepared to discuss it; and it notifies the public that the item is going to be discussed. We try not to have in-depth discussions without letting the public know, so that they are put on notice when the agenda goes out that the item is going to be discussed so that they can attend and provide their input. With regard to meeting schedule, he suggested staying with meeting every other month for the remainder of this year. That way, it will allow time to work on the enabling document and EAB process and procedures. Hopefully by the new year, we will have a better sense of direction and then if the board wants to look at going back to monthly meetings they can.

Chase Crawford, Arborist indicated that he is working on the grant process for use of tree funds and hopefully will have it completed soon. He would be glad to attend future meetings.

ACTION ITEMS:

There were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were none.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Gottschalk mentioned FDOT's release of their 30% plans for Bayfront Parkway and they are redesigning it to stay four lanes. At one time they looked at reducing it down to two lanes which would make it more walkable, bikeable and wondered if someone could provide an update to the board about the plans.

Member Hagen announced that Chair Dineen has an album release party at the Handlebar on Friday, August 2.

Chair Dineen indicated that this was a fund raiser project for a friend who is a doctor who has been going down to the Brazilian Amazon region for the past 6 or 7 years, working with other doctors with the Yanomami people on the Yanomami Health Care Sovereignty Project to integrate a holistic health care system for them.

Also, the Earth Day committee is planning an earth day for kids called Eco Kids on October 26 at Cordova Square. She is coordinating organizations to participate and if anyone knows of any groups that would be interested in participating to let her know.

Member Richards mentioned the possibility of getting an update on the report from the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force, whether to reconvene the task force or have someone from the task force provide an update. He also requested information on the solar canopy installed at city hall, how it is being metered, who paid for it, and how it is benefitting the city, and monitoring it.

Katherine Kuhn has made initial contact with FP&L and will follow up with them to get more information.

Member Richards also asked for an update to the board from the Sanitation Director on the City's recycling efforts, how it is working.

Chair Dineen mentioned the city's Strive to Thrive Pensacola 2035 initiative and encouraged the board to participate with the interactive map and survey on what your opinion is of Pensacola, what you would like to see improved, changed or grow.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Christian Wagley with Healthy Gulf made brief comments on shifting the City to focus on people, making it more walkable and bikeable, glad to see full complement of the board, having Katherine and Chase on board, the solar presentation, the 30% renewable goal, calculating renewable energy and use of solar and wind as sources for renewable energy vs tapping into landfills and natural gas as sources, the non compliance of the city's green building ordinance for city buildings, and announced the slow ride planned.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.



City of Pensacola

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Memorandum

File #: 24-840

Environmental Advisory Board

9/5/2024

DISCUSSION

SPONSOR: Katie Dineen - Chair

SUBJECT:

DISCUSSION -- EAB GOALS & BRAINSTORMING

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environmental Advisory Board have a discussion related to Goals and Brainstorming ideas.

HEARING REQUIRED: No Hearing Required

SUMMARY:

This item seeks to facilitate a discussion regarding EAB goals and moving forward.

PRIOR ACTION:

N/A

FUNDING:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

LEGAL REVIEW ONLY BY CITY ATTORNEY: No

STAFF CONTACT:

Don Kraher, Council Executive
Katherine Kuhn, Environmental Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS:

None

PRESENTATION: No