

**AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Philip Busey	P	
Adrienne Kaltman	P	
Cynthia Schaefer	P	
Jeremy Wehby	P	Arrived 6:04 PM
Scott Weinstein	P	Arrived 5:26 PM

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Lise Bazinet, Planner II
Lorraine Robinson, Secretary

Acting Chair Kaltman called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair was moved to later in the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 July 11, 2019 meeting

Motion made by Dr. Busey, seconded by Ms. Schaeffer, to approve the minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (3-0 with Mr. Wehby and Mr. Weinstein absent)

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Town Building Energy Audits

Update by Osdel Fernandez-Larrea, Public Works Director

Mr. Osdel Fernandez-Larrea, Public Works Director provided an update on the Towns sustainability and energy saving initiatives. Included upgrades to street lighting with LED in which they recently finalized the agreement with FPL for 3000 streetlights. Upgrades with LED to Town parks with the following projects completed: Shenandoah Park, Pine Island Park, Waverly, Rodeo Arena and inside the Multipurpose Center. Motion sensor switches have been installed. Hi efficiency bottle filling stations have been installed at Town Hall, Pine Island Park, Public Works and Fire Administration facilities.

Mr. Fernandez-Larrea explained ongoing initiatives promoting the use of recycled construction materials, high efficiency AC units, replacement of gas fueled utility vehicles with electric, implementing electronic mobile devices which reduces paper use, irrigation rain sensors, installing high efficiency hand dryers, and installing motion activated faucets.

Ms. Schaeffer asked what type of grounds maintenance vehicles were being used. Mr. Fernandez-Larrea stated that presently they are gas powered and were researching alternatives. He added that some leaf blowers are battery powered.

Scott Weinstein arrived.

Ms. Schaefer asked if they had considered using dual flush devices. Mr. Fernandez-Larrea responded that sometimes high pressure was needed depending on the public facilities.

Ms. Schaefer asked if the Town was looking into creating their own energy. Mr. Fernandez-Larrea has been talking with FPL about solar as an energy demo.

Dr. Busey commented that he was excited about the new technology being used. He stated that having an energy audit would be useful. Dr. Busey added he had reservations about LED technology due to the light pollution it creates. He recommended toning down lighting in park areas.

Dr. Busey stated that soil moisture sensors were very effective. Mr. Fernandez-Larrea responded that the sensors currently in place have reduced watering in places like medians.

Acting Chair Kaltman thanked him for the presentation.

5.2 Presentation on Solar Energy

Julie Dick, Esq. Senior Council

Ms. Julie Dick, Esquire Senior Council, Pathman Lewis LLP; provided a presentation on solar energy in south Florida. She stated that drivers for Florida cities clean energy include resilience, renewable energies, Federal and State policies, solar permitting and access to funding. Greenhouse gas contributors has not studied about food waste and refrigerants. She provided an overview of resident access to solar. Ms. Dick talked about the importance of municipalities' commitment to clean transportation, energy performance contracts and to incorporate energy resilience into climate planning, infrastructure, franchise agreements, solar subscription programs and organic waste to energy.

Dr. Busey asked for clarification on public charging stations. Ms. Dick stated that more access tends to make the public more comfortable purchasing electric vehicles.

Ms. Dick said that the Solar Now program is worth considering for municipalities. Dr. Busey asked if the PACE program was doing the same function. Ms. Dick advised that it provided services to homeowners not businesses.

Chair Wehby arrived. Ms. Kaltman passed the gavel to him.

Mr. Weinstein asked what a PPA was. Ms. Dick responded that it stood for Power Purchase Agreement and one can't bypass the utility grid connectivity. She added there was a state law that prohibited solar companies to bill directly for energy.

Ms. Dick stated that the Town having a sustainability master plan was important. There are easy things to implement such as Solsmart to foster the development of solar, energy coops, set a goal for the Town to be 100% sustainable and getting a greenhouse gas audit. She concluded that the committee think about their mission and create a plan.

Ms. Kaltman commented that more citizen advocacy was needed for residents and businesses to participate.

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Motion made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Ms. Kaltman to nominate Mr. Wehby as Chair. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wehby passed the gavel to Dr. Busey.

3. SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Motion made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Chair Wehby to nominate Ms. Kaltman as Vice Chair. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Busey passed the gavel back to Chair Wehby.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Sustainability Awards

Ms. Bazinet provided the committee with the nomination forms received. She stated the next step was to vote on each nomination form.

There was a brief discussion on how to proceed. It was determined to vote on each application individually in the order listed on the agenda.

Tower Shops

Dr. Busey was impressed on a lot of the bullet points of the submission. He added that this center was a large footprint in Davie and included an educational event, Earth Day at Tower Shops. Mr. Weinstein agreed that he liked what was submitted.

Motion made by Dr. Busey, seconded by Ms. Schaefer to approve. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Trees Amigos

Dr. Busey felt the nomination form lacked enough information. Ms. Schaefer apologized as she had made the submission and provided an oral presentation on what this company does for sustainability including donating plants to the food bank garden and education to the community. She encouraged the committee to visit them.

Motion made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Weinstein to approve. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Virtual Academy

Dr. Busey commented that the narrative lacked information. Vice Chair Kaltman stated it was unclear on what they did for sustainability. The committee agreed there wasn't enough information provided and encouraged them to resubmit next year with more details on how they would qualify.

Motion made by Dr. Busey, seconded by Mr. Weinstein to deny. In a voice vote, the motion passed (4-1 with Chair Wehby dissenting).

Garden Ala Cart

Dr. Busey was impressed the narrative and quality of the submission. Mr. Weinstein was equally impressed.

Motion made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Vice Chair Kaltman to approve. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Sterling Ranch

Dr. Busey felt dissatisfied with the completeness of the application. There was discussion that the only pictures included were individual residence with limited trees and landscaping. He added the second page with stats was a list and didn't provide information on how these accomplishments were achieved.

Chair Wehby passed the gavel to Vice Chair Kaltman.

Motion made by Chair Wehby, seconded by Mr. Weinstein to deny. In a voice vote, the motion passed (3-2 with Vice Chair Kaltman and Ms. Schaefer dissenting).

Vice Chair Kaltman passed the gavel back to Chair Wehby.

6.2 Resolution HR763 (Update by Ms. Kaltman)

Vice Chair Kaltman reminded the committee that they made a recommendation to Council to pass a resolution supporting HR763. The bill has a rebate process much like a tax refund co-written by U.S. House Representatives Charlie Crist, Ted Deutche, Al Lawson and Francis Rooney. She said that Mayor Paul was informed by someone attending the meeting that this would be harmful; therefore, denying approving the resolution.

Dr. Busey wanted to have clarification on what harm Council thought this would be to residents. Vice Chair Kaltman said that it was unclear, and that Councilmember Bryan Caletka said it would result in a large cost. She added that several Counties and municipalities have passed a similar resolution.

Vice Chair Kaltman would like to present to Council again with educating them on the benefits. Mr. Weinstein recommended that any committee member can contact Council directly and discuss the details of this resolution.

Motion made by Dr. Busey, seconded by Ms. Schaefer to recommend that Council pass a resolution supporting HR763, to be sent to our Congressional representatives. In a voice vote, the motion passed (3-2 with Chair Wehby and Mr. Weinstein dissenting).

6.3 Leaf Blower Alternatives – 2 Stroke Engines (update by Ms. Schaefer)

Ms. Schaefer stated that lawn equipment creates gasoline spillage and noise pollution. Leaf blowers cause noise pollution and remove leaf litter that is used by insects needed to complete their life cycle. Dr. Busey added that nutrients from clippings improve the soil.

Ms. Schaefer said a solution would be offer incentives to homeowners to trade-in old 2-stroke, 4-stroke blowers for electric ones. Dr. Busey said a challenge is the cost of two cycle engines. He agreed that education was important. Ms. Schaefer said that there were leaf vacuums. Chair Wehby said those are loud.

Ms. Schaefer suggested a rebate program for electric equipment would be highly effective and to have FPL as a partner. Mr. Weinstein questioned who would fund this and believes more solutions are needed.

Motion made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Vice Chair Kaltman for the Town to obtain a grant to fund a rebate program for residents to replace gasoline operated lawn equipment with electric. In a voice vote, the motion passed (3-2 with Chair Wehby and Mr. Weinstein dissenting).

Ms. Schaefer questioned why both Chair Wehby and Mr. Weinstein dissented. Chair Wehby was in favor of alternatives but didn't know how the Town could provide a rebate. She asked if the committee was to provide completed solutions or present ideas. Chair Wehby believed that having solutions was more effective. Ms. Schaefer said she would work on an educational campaign for leaf blowers to present at the January meeting. Dr. Busey recommended creating a 5-question survey. Mr. Wehby liked that and suggested adding what the communities would like to see addressed.

6.4 Yard Waste (Update by Mr. Weinstein)

Mr. Weinstein said that the Town has an agreement with Waste Management for waste hauling. Yard waste isn't being recycled and indicated there are several alternative solutions.

Motion made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Vice Chair Kaltman for Town Council to put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for qualified contractors to load, haul and process all bulk vegetative yard waste and debris, processing these products to be re-introduced as a sustainable resource back into the landscape community for both residential and commercial. In a voice vote, the motion passed (5-0).

6.5 Solar Energy Policy

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 2020 AEAC Meeting Calendar

Ms. Bazinet indicated that the only two changes were to the January 9, 2020 and July 9, 2020 meetings. The committee agreed with the proposed calendar. There was a brief discussion on meeting start times.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Chair Wehby said that they wanted to be productive and asked the committee to select a topic they are passionate about and come prepared for the January meeting to discuss issues and solutions.

Dr. Busey said he would take the lead on formulating the survey and email it to Ms. Bazinet to provide to the committee for vetting. Chair Wehby recommended the survey be short and limited to 4-5 questions. Dr. Busey agreed to have the survey for Orange Blossom.

Ms. Schaefer wanted to discuss a bike sharing program.

Chair Wehby goal was solar and would like to see the Town start with solar time clocks.

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Dr. Busey would work on the survey and wanted to make an energy audit an annual goal. Vice Chair Kaltman wanted to push for the Town to have an electric vehicle fleet.

Mr. Weinstein urged the members to reach out to administration for ideas on how to accomplish their goals. He met with Town Administrator Richard Lemack and staff on his ideas for yard waste and found him very helpful.

Ms. Schaefer wanted to encourage the Town to look at drought tolerant non-grass ground cover which is low maintenance and minimal watering.

Chair Wehby said he'd like to learn more about mulching mowers and would like Dr. Busey to bring information to the next meeting. Dr. Busey said it uses less energy, clippings decompose quickly regardless of the cut; the problem is its distribution. He mentioned there is a new turf coming on the market.

Ms. Bazinet reminded them that Orange Blossom was in February so anything needed for that event would have to be completed at the January meeting.

Mr. Weinstein said he would work on a questionnaire for residents for feedback on recycling yard waste.

Ms. Bazinet read into record the items for the next meeting:

- 1- Committee Objectives Survey (Busey)
- 2- Orange Blossom
- 3- Leaf Blowers Article (Schaefer)
- 4- Solar Initiative (Wehby)
- 5- Bike Sharing Program (Schaefer)
- 6- Annual Energy Audit (Busey)
- 7- Electric Town Vehicle Fleet (Kaltman)
- 8- Questionnaire -Residents Recycling Yard Waste (Weinstein)

9. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS – N/A

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – N/A

Mr. Eric Swalley stated regarding turf, the State of Arizona is doing an experiment by putting a polymer coating underneath the grass, it collects the water and slowly releases it to back to the turf. He said the number one goal should be to reduce carbon emissions.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Date Approved: 1/9/20

Quirico Kaltman
Chair/Board Member