

City of Pembroke Pines, Florida Environmental Advisory Board Annual Report

TO: Mayor and City Commissioners
 FROM: Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)
 CHAIR: Ram Tewari
 VICE-CHAIR: Erica Creighton
 REPORTING TERM: June 2025 through May 2026
 DATE: May 14, 2026

In accordance with the City’s Code of Ordinances, § 32.011, the Environmental Advisory Board respectfully submits this annual report to the City Commission, highlighting its continued commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable progress.

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) provides constructive advice and counsel to the City Commission and works to ensure that environmental protection and conservation remain a priority for the City. The Board advocates for sustainability initiatives that align with the City’s strategic goals and monitors the progress of the City’s Green Plan.

EAB members are seasoned professionals with expertise in a variety of sustainability areas, including programs that promote clean and renewable energy, waste reduction, wildlife protection, litter control, transportation planning, and other environmental initiatives. The Board remains proactive and focused on its mission to support and advance the City’s sustainability goals. The Environmental Advisory Board is comprised of eleven (11) members and one (1) alternate member, all of whom are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and City Commission. During the month of April 2026, two (2) members resigned (Members Stephens and Bonilla); therefore, there are four (4) vacancies representing Districts 2, 3, and an At-Large position designated by the Mayor.

Member	District
Member Rosana Cordova	At Large
VACANT	At Large
Member Heike Naigur	At Large
Chair, Ram Tewari	1
Member Scott Lewis	1
Member Brian Smith	2
VACANT	2
VACANT	3
VACANT	3
Vice-Chair. Erica Creighton	4
Member Carlos Marcos	4
Member Mirtha Rimarachin	Alt.

2025-26 Accomplishments:

During the reporting period, the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) held nine (9) meetings, achieving a quorum at each session. Attendance records are included as an attachment to this report. Through continuous support, the Board's efforts resulted in the following accomplishments:

- Advocated for a dedicated 'Sustainability Coordinator' position to implement and achieve the goals of the Green Plan. In response, the City designated Mr. Mark Gomes as the Assistant City Manager/Director, Procurement & **Sustainability** and to serve as the liaison to the EAB.
- Board members encouraged the City to expand communication efforts related to environmental stewardship. In response, the City launched a dedicated Sustainability & Green Initiatives section on its website to educate residents about the Green Plan and sustainability goals. Additionally, a "Sustainability Spotlight" feature was introduced in *City Connect* to highlight ongoing initiatives and progress.
- Board members recommended that the City explore membership in regional and global sustainability organizations. As a result, the City joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. ICLEI experts work alongside local and regional governments to anticipate and respond to complex challenges.
- The Board facilitated several in-depth discussions on environmental impacts related to key topics, including the use of glyphosate, polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), safety and lead emissions at North Perry Airport, composting, artificial turf, and textile recycling.

EAB Recommendations:

Sustainability efforts and practices have evolved tremendously over the years, and the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) will continue to pursue sustainable alternatives while introducing initiatives that promote environmental stewardship. The Board currently recommends the following:

- Recommend the City Commission fill vacant board positions as soon as possible.
- Recommend that the City provide monthly updates on Green Plan actionable items.
- Recommend that the City update the signage at the Chapel Trail Nature Preserve.
- Recommend adjustments to the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Award:
 - Consider a gift card award from a local nursery in lieu Home Depot
 - Consider including elements from the Broward Naturescape Recognition Program to the award criteria
- Continue to dedicate a staff member as a "Sustainability Coordinator" to implement the goals outlined in the Green Plan.
- Prepare an ordinance banning the use of certain fertilizers that contain harmful nutrients and chemicals known to negatively impact water quality and local ecosystems.
- Implement a compost program:
 - Develop an educational program
 - Station composting trash receptacles at public schools and facilities
 - Provide free compost bin giveaways at City Center

Re: Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) Recommendations

- Discontinue the use of the chemical glyphosate, which can cause acute symptoms, such as nausea, diarrhea, and throat irritation upon ingestion or exposure, and transition to safer, environmentally friendly herbicide alternatives.
- Create an educational series on environmental stewardship topics, featuring professionals in their respective areas of expertise to present to the Board.
- Consider a contractual relationship with Waste Management at its new facility for recycling.
- Reassess and prioritize the development of a recycling program that is feasible, cost-effective, practical, and supported by residents.
- Activities approved by the City Commission supporting the Green Plan should be earmarked in the FY2026-27 Budget.
- Continue to seek certifications and awards recognizing the positive programs implemented by the City.
- Seek grants and alternate funding sources to launch environmentally sustainable programs.

Acknowledgements:

The Board would like to acknowledge the City Commission for establishing the Environmental Advisory Board as a valuable resource to provide guidance and counsel on environmental protection and conservation initiatives.

The Board also extends its sincere appreciation to Mark Gomes, Assistant City Manager/Director of Procurement & Sustainability, for serving as the Board's liaison. His efforts in researching complex topics, providing clarity, and assisting in the prioritization of key issues have been instrumental to the Board's effectiveness and success.

Conclusion:

Throughout the reporting period, the Board remained actively engaged in advancing the City's Green Plan, fostering meaningful dialogue on critical environmental issues, and supporting initiatives that promote sustainability, resilience, and community awareness. The Board's accomplishments reflect a collaborative effort to enhance communication, expand regional partnerships, and position the City for recognition through environmental achievements and best practices.

Looking ahead, the Environmental Advisory Board will continue to serve as a trusted advisory body, offering informed recommendations and innovative solutions that align with the City's strategic goals. By prioritizing environmental protection, responsible growth, and resource conservation, the Board remains dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents while safeguarding the City's natural assets for future generations.

Encl(s):

Attendance Record

Meeting Minutes (August 2025 – May 2026)

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
ATTENDANCE YEAR 2025-2026

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD 2025-2026 ATTENDANCE RECORD

Member Name:	District	AUG 25'	SEPT 25'	OCT 25'	NOV 25'	DEC 25'	JAN 26'	FEB 26'	MARCH 26'	APRIL 26'	MAY 26'	JUN 26'	Total excused Absences	Total unexcused Absences
Cordova	At Large	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	E	P	P	NM	1	0
Stephens	At Large	E	P	E	P	P	NM	P	P	P	Resigned	NM	2	0
Naigur	At Large	P	P	P	P	E	NM	P	P	E	P	NM	2	0
Rimarachin	Mayor's Alternate	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	U	P	NM	0	1
Tewari	1	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	E	NM	1	0
Lewis	1	P	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	NM	0	0
Smith	2	P	U	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	NM	0	1
Bonilla	3	P	P	P	E	P	NM	P	E	E	Resigned	NM	3	0
Marcos	4	P	E	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	NM	1	0
Creighton	4	E	P	P	P	P	NM	P	P	P	P	NM	1	0
QUORUM (6 MEMBERS REQUIRED)		8	8	9	9	9	NM	10	8	7	7	NM		
P=Present, E=Excused, U=Unexcused, NM=No Meeting														

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

August 5, 2025

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Marcos, Members Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Smith, Naigur and Bonilla.

Absent: Members Stephens and Creighton.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Joe Yaciuk and Cole Williams, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene D. Graham.

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 6, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Naigur**, to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2025 Environmental Advisory Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Williams reviewed landscape permits, landscape mitigation plans, tree removals and solar panel permits per year-to-date. Pembroke Pines continues to be recertified as a Tree City as well as recertification with the National Wildlife Foundation. Liaison Yaciuk spoke about the Board Night presentation on June 4, 2025, and the recommendations made to the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Liaison Yaciuk discussed the Environmental Advisory Board Annual Report presented to the City Commission at Board Night on June 4, 2025. He spoke about the appointment of Procurement Director Mark Gomes to position of Assistant City Manager and Sustainability Coordinator. He maintains his position as Procurement Director but

as Sustainability professional his insight would be invaluable to environmental matters of concern to the EAB.

Chair Tewari spoke about the new Sustainability Professional Mark Gomes and the board moving forward with the initiatives and objectives of the Board. Mr. Gomes is expected to attend the next Environmental Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Yaciuk said that the Environmental Advisory Board would likely have an organizational meeting in September to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. The board normally has its elections in August but there was a lack of quorum at the August 2024 meeting through the end of last year. The board election took place at the February 2025 board meeting to nominate Ram Tewari as Chair and Carlos Marcos as Vice Chair. Liaison Yaciuk recommended that the board have an election in September with a term from September to June and maybe have a reset in August. Mr. Gomes will be on board for the reset, and the current liaison team would bring Mr. Gomes up to speed with the research on green business models and other issues currently under consideration by the board.

Mr. Yaciuk spoke about PFAS schedule and the solid waste legal matter of the meeting with the City Manager and City Attorney regarding the Coconut Creek landfill waste management issue. Chair Tewari asked about the status of fluoride and being added to the City's drinking water. State legislation has made it unlikely for the adding of fluoride to drinking water.

PRESENTATION:

Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith presented and discussed Roberts Rules of Order and Legislative Updates affecting Environmental matters. She said pertaining to Roberts Rules of Order, members must be allowed to speak without interruption. Then the next member takes their turn as indicated through the Chair. A motion is a formal proposal to do something which constitutes an action of the board. If a motion is before the board for consideration, there must be a vote by motion, the motion is seconded. The motion discussed must then be voted on.

Local governments cannot prohibit synthetic turf, established standards for EV charging stations; removal of fluoride from drinking water; elimination of consumer unit pricing and other legislative bills.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liaison Yaciuk discussed Green Business Programs – certification and next steps. The Environmental Advisory Board discussed updates on the Broward County Greenway system and mitigation plans.

IN THE NEWS:

Mr. Yaciuk spoke about the news of homeowners experiencing the cost of repairing copper pipe erosion in Miramar due to that city's use of reverse osmosis and processes.

FUTURE TOPICS:

Member Lewis suggested partnering with the Youth Advisory Board on green projects, recycling, bicycle transportation, areas of business that support green initiatives. Member Bonilla concurred with the idea of collaborating with the Youth Advisory Board and high schoolers on art projects to represent environmental causes. Member Rimarachin recommended teaching school children about recycling. Networking with businesses for environmental incentives. Member Lewis spoke about an invitation to attend the Sustainability Advisory Committee Coalition of Broward (SACC) formed by the City of Hollywood.

ABSENCES:

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Naigur**, to excuse the absences of Member Stephens, and Member Creighton from the August 2025 Environmental Advisory Board meeting. **The motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Bonilla**, to extend the meeting past 7:30 PM by five minutes. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Vice Chair Marcos**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary

APPROVED: 9/2/2025

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

September 2, 2025

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on September 2, 2025, was called to order at 6:36 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Members Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Naigur, Bonilla Stephens and Creighton.

Absent: Vice Chair Marcos and Member Smith.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, Vanessa De Souza and Byron Granda-Paez, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene D. Graham.

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

Chair Tewari welcomed new Board Liaison Mark Gomes. Mr. Gomes introduced himself to the Environmental Advisory Board. He is Assistant City Manager and Director of Procurement & Sustainability. He introduced the other Staff Liaisons Vanessa De Souza and Byron Granda-Paez. Each board member introduced themselves and spoke on the initiatives they would like to see the board recommend to the City Commission.

ELECTION

Ram Tewari was nominated as Chair and Member Erica Creighton was nominated as Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Board.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Stephens**, seconded by **Member Creighton**, to nominate Ram Tewari as Chair of the Environmental Advisory Board. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Chair Tewari**, to nominate Member Erica Creighton as Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Board. **The motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 5, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Naigur**, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Mr. Gomes discussed Section 32.100 of the City's Code of Ordinances on the establishment and intent of the Environmental Advisory Board, Sunshine Law and ethics compliance, public records, and board procedures. He presented and discussed the list of board objectives in Section 32.102 of the Code of Ordinances. Members commented on the list. Chair Tewari suggested that a spreadsheet prioritizing elements of the list would be useful. Chair Tewari commented on outlining the priorities of the Green Plan and other emerging issues like PFAS in the water supply.

The board discussed creating a spreadsheet detailing what is expected from the board, what has been done so far, and any obstacles to achieving those goals. Preparing a status report on the green plan and the priorities outlined in it for the next meeting. Gathering information on site plans and how they align with sustainability goals to share with the board. Looking at past meeting minutes to capture the overall direction of board perspectives on priorities.

Mr. Gomes shared liaison staff contact email addresses:

Mark Gomes mgomes@ppines.com; Vanessa DeSouza vdesouza@ppines.com, copying the Board Secretary, Marlene Graham mgraham@ppines.com.

NEW BUSINESS:

Member Cordova spoke about reviewing site plans and sustainability goals. Mr. Gomes spoke on EPA grants and EV buses. Chair Tewari commented on vendors who provide EV charging stations. Mr. Gomes provided a brief overview of the procurement process relating to environmental matters. He said the board would be responsible for bringing these matters forward for discussion and motion.

Chair Tewari discussed the restoration of recycling programs, raw water hydraulic monitoring, and RLI procurement processes. Members Stephens and Naigur

discussed proposals to review PFAS, composting, QR codes, and solid waste collection as issues to review further.

IN THE NEWS:

Mr. Gomes spoke about the North Perry Airport Town Hall Meeting on August 27, 2025 conducted by Broward County Commission.

FUTURE TOPICS:

Member Lewis asked about coordination with the youth Advisory Board regarding the Green Schools Campaign. He presented three slides describing the program and language for a resolution *“We request that the Pembroke Pines Youth Advisory Board consider having a presentation by the Broward Green School Campaign committee to learn about efforts to make schools more sustainable and to encourage students in Pembroke Pines to join the Campaign.”*

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Stephens**, to extend the meeting by fifteen (15) minutes to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Naigur**, to recommend the resolution proposed by Member Lewis with the following language: *“We recommend that the Pembroke Pines Youth Advisory Board consider having a presentation by the Broward Green School Campaign committee to learn about efforts to make schools more sustainable and to encourage students in Pembroke Pines to join the Campaign.”* **Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion** was made by **Member Bonilla**, seconded by **Member Naigur**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 7, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary

APPROVED: 10/07/2025

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

October 7, 2025

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on October 7, 2025, was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Marcos, Smith, Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Naigur, and Bonilla.

Absent: Member Stephens.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, Bobbi Williams and Vanessa De Souza, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene D. Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tewari asked Board Liaison Mark Gomes to introduce himself for the benefit of members who were not in attendance at the last board meeting. Mr. Gomes introduced himself to the Environmental Advisory Board. He is Assistant City Manager and Director of Procurement & Sustainability. He introduced the other Staff Liaisons Bobbi Williams and Vanessa De Souza. Each board member introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 2, 2025 board meeting minutes were approved.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Bonilla**, to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ATTENDANCE

Liaison Mark Gomes explained the preference of the new header on the agenda of ATTENDANCE instead of ABSENCES. Mr. Gomes discussed Section 32.006 of the

City's Code of Ordinances pertaining to attendance at board meetings, overall attendance policies and the importance of notifying the City Clerk about absences. He spoke about how attendance or absences are designated on the board's attendance record pursuant to the Code of Ordinances:

Unexcused Absence: Failure to notify the City Clerk (or designee) in advance of a meeting. **Excused Absence:** Notification given in advance; confirmed by majority vote of the board. **Three (3) Unexcused Absences in one term:** automatic termination.

The board voted to excuse the following absences:

- **Motion** was made by **Vice Chair Creighton**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to excuse the absence of Member Marcos from the September 2, 2025 board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to excuse the absence of Member Stephens from the October 7, 2025 board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON:

The board reviewed prioritization of items related to the City's adopted Green Plan and sustainability initiatives as presented in the Liaison Report. Mr. Gomes discussed the Potential Prioritization List, Tiers 1 through 4: Strategic Foundation, Core Environmental Priorities, Community and Infrastructure, Supportive and Enabling Measures. He provided a breakdown of objectives and purposes under each tier. Members had an opportunity to ask questions to clarify the objectives.

Member Cordova said there were many items the board wished to tackle and having a priority list helped the board move forward with ideas and recommendations.

Mr. Gomes discussed the Green Plan Status Update including site plans and alignment with sustainability goals. Mr. Gomes said he reached out to the Planning and Economic Development Department to ask that they continue to provide the Environmental Advisory Board with updates and information consistent with sustainability initiatives for future meetings.

Member Cordova asked if the sustainability checklist for developers and suppliers is still being implemented. Mr. Gomes said there is still a process, and he will provide the board with examples the next time a site plan is available. Member Naigur asked if there was a similar process for the Procurement Department. Mr. Gomes said not at this time, but the board could come up with ideas and recommendations for the process.

Mr. Gomes discussed the Environmental Advisory Board's recommendation to the Youth Advisory Board on the Broward Green Schools Program discussed at the last meeting. He said the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) decided not to proceed with formal presentation at this time. The YAB liaison will share the contact information for the Broward Green School Campaign to members/students who wish to get involved.

Member Lewis commented on his disappointment that the Youth Advisory Board could not move forward on the project but understood their time constraints.

Mr. Gomes spoke on the possibility of developing a sustainability section on the City's website to provide public access to sustainability information. He said updates on progress regarding environmental projects will be shared with board members in future meetings. He also spoke on the preparation of a PDF book to be accessed via the city's website that would outline the updates and progress on the Green Plan, including estimated start times, completion goals, and involved departments.

Member Cordova discussed how having a sustainability coordinator would help improve collaboration and coordination on sustainability initiatives with other departments, and specifically procurement, and the budget.

Vice Chair Creighton asked about the timeframe for moving ahead with plans. Mr. Gomes said he would reach out to the Planning Department for feedback on previous tasks related to the Green Plan and provide updates at future meetings.

Mr. Gomes said the city is addressing PFAS contamination in water supplies through a lengthy procurement process for necessary services. He provided a timeline on the PFAS Treatment Feasibility Evaluation through to the next steps with Commission approval of the Evaluation Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Gomes spoke on the expansion of the recycling facility, including host fee agreements for accepting recyclables from various cities. The county's solid waste master plan was recently approved, focusing on disposal options for the entire county.

The Waste Management Facility Expansion and Microhabitat Planting Event is scheduled for November 6, 2025, from 9 AM to 12 noon: seeking volunteers from the Environmental Advisory Board and community.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Calendar - Chair Tewari discussed with members if they wanted to meet every month or every two months. The consensus was that the Board meet every month now that there was quorum, there was now a sustainability coordinator, and there was a need to move ahead expeditiously with recommendations for the Commission on environmental and sustainability issues important to the City.

IN THE NEWS:

Mr. Gomes discussed community responses to the North Perry Airport Town Hall Meeting conducted on August 27, 2025, by Broward County Commission about FAA investigations into unsafe flight traffic and frequency, and oversight jurisdiction.

Member Marcos said he had attended the town hall meeting and commented on what was discussed. He said that considerations seemed to lean more toward Broward County concerns rather than local neighborhood and community concerns.

Mr. Gomes spoke about the Monarch Hill Landfill Settlement between Broward County, Coconut Creek, Deerfield Beach over the expansion of "Mount Trashmore."

FUTURE TOPICS:

Member Bonilla said she would like to discuss at the next meeting how the board can better manage its time so that topics are fully discussed and recommendations can be made in the allotted time without having to extend the meeting time, with better scheduling of topics ahead of subsequent meetings for the next meeting.

Chair Tewari agreed that structuring future meetings to address topics in advance and improve time management during discussions. Updates on progress regarding environmental projects will be shared with board members in future meetings.

Mr. Gomes said the board needed to clarify its meeting adjournment time to consider time management so that the meeting would not go overtime before adjournment.

Motion was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to extend the meeting by fifteen (15) minutes to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines, FL

APPROVED: 11/4/2025

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
November 4, 2025

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on November 4, 2025, was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Smith, Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Naigur, Stephens and Marcos.

Absent: Member Bonilla.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Bobbi Williams and Vanessa De Souza, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene D. Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DECLARED.

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

The motion to excuse absence was made later in the meeting in case there were late arrivals who were not present during the recorded roll call. Two members arrived after the roll call. A third member had submitted a request for excused absence prior to the meeting.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Naigur**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to excuse the absence of Member Bonilla from the November 4, 2025 board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes of the October 7, 2025 board meeting.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Vice Chair Creighton**, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025, Environmental Advisory Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Mark Gomes was not in attendance. Staff Liaison Bobbi Williams introduced herself and Staff Liaison Vanessa DeSouza to provide the Liaison Report.

The report addressed the duration of the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meetings, Board Night Recommendations from June 2025, the alignment of sustainability initiatives with the City's Green Plan, and the matter of Waste Management Expansion and the Microhabitat Planting Event hosted by Waste Management at the new facility at 20701 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029 on November 6, 2025.

Board members discussed the duration and end time of each meeting and confirmed that meetings should end at 7:30 p.m., and if the meeting went beyond that time a motion to extend would be made. The Chair encouraged members to be on time for a prompt start time of 6:30 p.m.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Vice Chair Creighton**, to formally establish the official ending time of the Environmental Advisory Board meeting adjournment time of 7:30 p.m. and the ability to make a motion to extend if the meeting goes overtime. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Williams spoke about providing electronic distribution of materials versus paper copies for future meetings to be consistent with sustainability. The Chair and several members liked receiving the presentation digitally. Others preferred receiving a printed copy of the presentation. Liaison Williams said a few printed copies could be provided at the next meeting.

Ms. Williams presented a PowerPoint discussion on sustainability initiatives that emerged from EAB board night recommendations on June 4, 2025. The objective was to make sure that each recommendation was aligned with the Green Plan. The hiring of a Sustainability Coordinator was a top recommendation that was fulfilled by the appointment of Mr. Gomes in that role. Ms. Williams and the board reviewed the status of the other recommendations relating to composting, PFAS, updating the City's website to create sustainability and educational web pages. She invited members to submit some additional ideas for recommendation.

Member Naigur commented on the importance of reviewing sustainable goals in site plans submitted by contractors and expressed interest in creating outreach or stakeholder engagement partnerships with other cities for best practices in sustainability efforts, and exchange information about their processes.

Member Rimarachin spoke on exploring such potential recycling initiatives as reverse vending machines for incentivizing recycling and provided an example of information she forwarded to Staff on the University of Miami's reverse vending machines for recycling launched through partnership with Coca Cola that netted five cents a can. Chair Tewari expanded the example to the possibility of Pembroke Pines City Center with its many events having something similar to the UM exemplified to recycle cans netting five cents a can that could be donated to the Charter Schools.

Liaison Williams and Liaison De Souza said that research was being done and that information would be brought back to the board when completed.

Member Lewis spoke about the Southeast Climate Compact Summit on December 16-17, 2025 in Palm Beach County.

Member Stephens spoke about the International Water Conference November 9-13, 2025, in Orlando discussing the latest technologies on clean water.

Ms. Williams and board members discussed Waste Management expansion and the host fee paid by Waste Management to City of Pembroke Pines. Ms. William said Mr. Gomes could further discuss the matter at the next meeting.

Member Stephens asked if the City's recycling could not be processed by Waste Management instead of going to Pompano Beach. Chair Tewari said that it is a city policy that should be addressed by Mr. Gomes and could be discussed at the next meeting.

Members discussed the Broward County Landfill and concerns about possible burning. Chair Tewari spoke about Broward County solid waste site plan, composting and bio-solids that would need to be looked at it more detail.

Chair Tewari asked Staff Liaison about the sustainability checklist and its conformity with the Green Plan. Ms. Williams said the Planning Department would coordinate efforts and update the board on the checklist to make sure all the objectives in the Green Plan are met.

City Connect Newsletter will feature a dedicated section for sustainability articles, enhancing community engagement.

Members suggested names for the dedicated sustainability mock version of the newsletter, ultimately favoring "*Sustainability Spotlight*." Any information or article relating to the City's Green Plan and sustainability matters would be published in that section of the City Connect Newsletter.

- **Motion** was made by **Vice Chair Creighton**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to approve the naming of the new sustainability corner of the Pembroke Pines City Connect newsletter, as “*The Sustainability Spotlight*.” **The motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Williams introduced the updated sustainability website (Green Plan Recommendation #5.2.2 Create Sustainability page). Chair Tewari encouraged members to visit the website, review the contents, and provide feedback.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prepare an updated version of the sustainability newsletter draft for review by board members before submitting it to City Connect.

IN THE NEWS:

Member Lewis referred to climate journalist Bill McKibbin at the 2025 Miami Book Fair and his new book “*Here Comes the Sun*.”

FUTURE TOPICS:

- Coordinate with other departments to update the sustainability checklist related to the Green Plan.
- Waste Management facility expansion—Follow up on the hosting fee information and determine if fees can be allocated for sustainability purposes.
- The feasibility of implementing reverse vending machines for recycling in the city.
- Article for City Connect Sustainability newsletter article for February/March 2026. Open to accepting articles from EAB board members or publication in the newsletter.
- Other matters that are pending a response from staff.

Chair Tewari asked Staff Liaison to update the City's org chart on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Stephens**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines

APPROVED: 12/2/2025

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

December 2, 2025

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on December 2, 2025, was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Smith, Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Stephens, Bonilla and Marcos.

Absent: Member Naigur.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, Bobbi Williams and Vanessa De Souza, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene D. Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DECLARED.

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

The motion to excuse absence was made later in the meeting in case there were late arrivals who were not present during the recorded roll call.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Bonilla**, to excuse the absence of Member Naigur from the December 2, 2025 board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes of the November 4, 2025 board meeting.

- **Motion** was made by **Vice Chair Creighton**, seconded by **Member Bonilla**, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025 Environmental Advisory Board meeting with minor corrections. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Mark Gomes gave his report. He provided a summary of the issues raised by the board at the last meeting pertaining to site plans and their alignment with

sustainability goals. Staff followed up with the Planning Department to find out if they had any updated site plans. They had no items to report at this time. Mr. Gomes spoke about the desire of the board to review recommendations from the Board Night presentations to the Commission in June of 2025, to examine the status of the recommendations and their alignment with the Green Plan. He invited the board to discuss any additional recommendations or clarifications they may want to make.

Chair Tewari thanked Mr. Gomes for providing the PowerPoint presentation prior to the meeting and said it helped to better prepare board members to stay on track with time management and more focused discussions.

Mr. Gomes moved on to discuss the Waste Management Facility highlights. The new facility would be opening in January 2026 and would be one of the largest recycling plants in the Southeast U.S., recycling glass, paper, plastics, and aluminum, with a capacity of 270,000+ tons a year. The host fees are set at \$3.50 for local trips and \$4 for outside trips, starting in January 2026. The city suspended recycling due to contamination issues and is exploring new waste disposal technologies.

Members discussed the expansion of the facility and impacts on the roads and traffic in the area and questioned the funding of the expansion. Mr. Gomes said the expansion was being funded by the MAP Broward Transportation Penny Surtax.

Mr. Gomes spoke about the Microhabitat Planting Event that took place on November 6, 2025. Member Stephens attended the Microhabitat Planting Event at Waste Management and reported on it to the board. Along with forty Pembroke Pines Charter School students Member Stephens participated in activities, including a tour of the plant.

Member Lewis attended the November 21, 2025 Commission Meeting and reported to the Board on the Broward Sierra Group Junior Team's recognition for their contributions and leadership promoting sustainable, greener school communities.

Members reviewed the Sustainability website and expressed interest in providing increased article submissions to the Sustainability Spotlight page of the City's Digital Newsletter City Connect and reviewed the calendar of recognized Sustainability Days.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Broward County Sierra Club presented the City's Mayor with the Environmental Champion Award for in recognition of the City's efforts to protect the environment by advancing sustainable solutions. Several board members attended the event. The Broward Sierra Group Junior Team was also recognized and received a proclamation from Mayor Castillo.

The Natalie Belmonte Award is presented monthly to residents with outstanding yards, creating landscaping that enhances and beautifies the community. The November Great Yard award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. McKissick.

Vice Chair Creighton asked if native Florida plants were a category that could be considered in the Great Yards Awards. Member Lewis commented on Home Depot specifically promoting native plants to improve the environment in general. Mr. Gomes said he would explore the matter with the Planning Department and Code Enforcement Department to see if there is a process for including native Florida plants as criteria for consideration in the Great Yards Awards.

FUTURE TOPICS:

Mr. Gomes spoke about potential future topics to include Road Mappin Green Plan Status Update, PFAS Status Update, Composting, Textile Recycling and Reverse Recycling Vending Machines. Chair Tewari asked about exploring ways to raise funds by textile recycling via Goodwill, Salvation Army. This could be an item for further discussion and exploration. Liaison DeSouza said she was working on information to provide to the Board. The cost implications of reverse recycling were also a topic being analyzed by staff to be brought back to the board. Member Bonilla said the board should explore the schools composting program and biodegradable matter. Future topics would also include exploring regional partnerships and continued discussions on North Perry Airport.

OLD BUSINESS:

Back in August 2025 Broward County Commission Member Alexandra Davis conducted a community town hall meeting to discuss safety at North Perry Airport.

Member Marcos had attended the town hall meeting. He said he is still waiting for feedback from the County Commission regarding concerns of the residents in Pembroke Pines.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chair Creighton asked about PFAS and grass material on golf courses for further discussion. Chair Tewari asked about biosolids and potential recycling opportunities for the city. Member Stephens asked about PFAS and clean water. Member Lewis asked if the City would be sending a representative to the Climate Summit. Mr. Gomes said it was to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines

APPROVED: 2/3/2026

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
February 3, 2026

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on February 3, 2026, was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Naigur, Smith, Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Stephens, Bonilla and Marcos.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, and Bobbi Williams, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DECLARED.

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

The motion to excuse absence was made later in the meeting in case there were late arrivals who were not present during the recorded roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes of December 2, 2025, board meeting with amendments pertaining to the capacity of the recycling facility at 270,000+ tons a year. Members approved the minutes with corrections regarding micro planting activities and recycling facility capacity; description was added about the Microhabitat Planting Event that took place on November 6, 2025 and was attended by Member Stephens at Waste Management facility and reported to the board.

Member Lewis attended the November 21, 2025 Commission Meeting and spoke on the Broward Sierra Group Junior Team's recognition for their contributions and leadership promoting sustainable, greener school communities.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Naigur**, seconded by **Member Bonilla**, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025 Environmental Advisory Board meeting with changes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Mark Gomes gave his report. He discussed site plan alignment with sustainability goals and shared updates on city communications. He spoke about the Sustainability Corner of the Spotlight newsletter publication and encouraged board members to submit their ideas by email to the staff liaison team who are gathering ideas for the next edition of the Sustainability Corner of Spotlight Newsletter which publishes six times a year.

Hazardous household waste events are scheduled throughout the year, with participation data from previous events shared.

Community Engagement -The board highlighted a recent community event focused on sustainability, engaging residents and promoting board membership.

Environmental Concerns - Discussions included environmental concerns related to North Perry Airport and the need for lead emission screenings. New legislation aims to restrict building incinerators near neighborhoods, addressing environmental impacts and public health concerns.

Great Yards Award-Environmental Advisory Board discussed considerations for native Florida plants in the Great Yards award evaluation. Previous judging process involved site visits, which are no longer conducted by the board. Assistant City Attorney Nesmith said that the Sunshine Law made group site visits to see yards nominated for potential awards problematic. Board members would have to go individually if they wanted to evaluate yards for award nomination.

New Initiatives-New initiatives aim to improve community involvement in litter control and neighborhood upkeep.

Community Outreach - Staff Liaison Williams spoke about the ArtLit event she attended on January 10, 2026, at the southwest Regional Library on Sheridan Street. The Procurement and Sustainability Department joined with the Recreation Department to staff an outreach tent at the event on behalf of the City. She described the plant workshops and kids' activities. The theme of the event aligned with sustainability messaging for effective community outreach on the environment. Ms. Williams said a few residents expressed interest in the Environmental Advisory Board. The board currently has two (2) vacancies, including one in District 3, and one of the interested residents resides in District 3.

Member Stephens provided a handout on One Book, One Broward about books on the environment.

Member Naigur provided information about a Broward County Library event aligned with environmental education and sustainability, including the screening of a documentary

called “Seed-The Untold Story,” which is also available for streaming by the public through the library system with the use of a library card. Member Stephens said the library also provides the DVD of the documentary available to be checked out. She spoke about the efforts to save seeds without having to use chemical seeds made by chemical companies and sold to farms worldwide.

North Perry Airport – Lead Emission Screening RFP Update. Chair Tewari asked who would evaluate the RFP. Mr. Gomes described the process undertaken by the Procurement Department staff and evaluation committee. After recent plane crashes the County and community have been evaluating aircraft safety as well as air quality emissions on surrounding communities. Member Marcos said the County has emphasized its safety focus inside the airport instead of on the surrounding communities.

Safety Assessment RFP Update.

Community Advisory Committee-Ten (10 seats) Broward County: open for applicants to apply for two-year terms.

Waste-to-Energy Incinerator Update – Miami Dade’s Evaluation Process and regional opposition. Mr. Gomes discussed the proposed location, bidders and an upcoming Commission Workshop on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, to further explore the matter. Member Stephens and Member Smith spoke about the proposed new site and whether impact studies were being done.

PFAS Status Update – concerns about lawn care products and water treatment plant improvements.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

Procurement Department Recognition-The procurement department received an Excellence Award, highlighting successful sustainability efforts. Mr. Gomes acknowledged the hard work of his team.

The Natalie Belmonte Award is presented monthly to residents with outstanding yards, creating landscaping that enhances and beautifies the community. The November award was presented to District 3 winners Michael and Andrea Badyna, presented on December 11, 2025. The December District 4 winners were Paul and Lourdes Ackerman presented on January 7, 2026.

Coral Bleaching and Marine Protection – On December 11, 2025, a proclamation was presented to Sophia Garcia and Sofia Pestana for earning the Girl Scouts’ prestigious Silver Award for raising awareness about coral bleaching and the importance of protecting marine ecosystems.

Citywide Litter Control Services – Mr. Gomes said the contract was award to Grow Care Outdoor Solutions LLC on January 21, 2026 by Commission. Scope of work would

include landscape maintenance and litter control for city-owned properties and public rights of way.

FUTURE TOPICS:

Road-mapping for future meetings: Mr. Gomes encouraged board members to reach out to staff liaisons with ideas and suggestions for future topics. He explained that topics can be planned for specific meetings, possibly inviting subject matter experts to speak on specific matters.

Green Plan Status Update, PFAS Status update, Composting, Textile Recycling, Shredding, Reverse Vending Machines, North Perry Airport, Broward County Regional Biosolids, Recognized Sustainability Days, Explore Regional Partnerships, Glyphosate Herbicide Update.

Member Naigur asked when the city would fully engage in a recycling program. Member Rimarachin spoke about reverse recycling. Mr. Gomes said the city wants to analyze the cost of recycling so that it does not increase the costs for residents. He discussed how recycling costs per ton can be impacted by levels of contamination.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ANNUAL CALENDAR: Mr. Gomes expanded the calendar to include all city events, including those with themes aligned to sustainability. Member Naigur asked about the Easter Egg Hunt in April and whether plastic Easter Eggs had to be used. Discussion ensued about the possibility of recycling the plastic eggs.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Cordova**, to extend the board meeting to another six (6) minutes past the 7:30 PM adjournment time. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Stephens**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines

APPROVED: 3/3/2026

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
March 3, 2026

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on **March 3, 2026**, was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Naigur, Smith, Rimarachin, Lewis, Stephens, and Marcos.

Absent: Members Bonilla and Cordova.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, and Bobbi Williams, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DECLARED

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

ATTENDANCE

The Board excused the absences of Members Cordova and Bonilla from the March 3, 2026 board meeting.

- **Motion** was made by **Vice Chair Creighton**, seconded by **Member Naigur**, to excuse the absences of Members Bonilla and Cordova at the March 3, 2026 board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the EAB meeting minutes of February 3, 2025.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Vice Chair Creighton**, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026, Environmental Advisory Board meeting with changes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Board members discussed reducing paper usage by limiting printed agendas. They approved a motion to provide printed copies of the agenda and minutes to those who wish to continue receiving printed copies to reduce the amount of paper in line with sustainability objectives of the board.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Stephens**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to stop printing agendas and minutes to be consistent with sustainability objectives, except for those who wish to still receive a printed copy of the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Mark Gomes gave his report.

Waste Management opened a new recycling facility on February 19, 2026. It is currently awaiting final permits for full operation.

Great Yards Award- The Planning Department now manages the Great Yards Award process monthly instead of annually. Staff from the Planning Department visit homes as a group or individually to review the properties of the Award Nominees. Member Stephens asked how many applications the City receives from residents wishing to enter the Great Yards Award competition. Liaison Gomes said he would explore if there is any data on that question.

North Perry Airport – Liaison Gomes provided updates on the Lead Emission Screening RFP Safety Assessment which will go before the initial evaluation committee meeting scheduled on March 24, 2026. The final evaluation committee meeting on the RFP is scheduled for April 6, 2026 by Procurement Department staff and evaluation committee.

Glyphosate Update – Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide seen in such products as Roundup. He said the City's Recreation Department confirmed that their use of glyphosate is sparing and strictly applied according to label directions around mulch beds in parks and at the golf course. He said the EPA study found that it was not carcinogenic when used as directed.

Easter Egg Hunt – Mr. Gomes spoke about the use of plastic eggs and the logistical challenges of handling, recycling or disposal of returned plastic eggs, as well as the operational costs of staffing for collecting and reusing empty plastic eggs.

Textile Recycling – Mr. Gomes said textile recycling bins are not permitted in Pembroke Pines. Code Compliance will remove them if locations are reported. Though

some bins have been seen in various locations around the city, and used by the public, staff recommend that textile drop-off bins not be permitted because they become unsightly and attract illegal dumping. Member Naigur spoke about a new program in Miami that, rather than donate the dropped off textiles, repurpose the textiles, and with a partnership with Waste Management, transport the textiles to Goodwill. She said Waste Management is exploring textile recycling.

Broward Nature Scape Workshop – Liaison Williams described her attendance at the workshop on February 26, 2026 at Tree Tops Park. She provided a list of trees and plants to be given away on March 14, 2026 at the Water Matters Day event at Tree Tops Park.

Annual Calendars – Environmental Advisory Board meeting dates and Special Events in the City, particularly the events that the City’s Sustainability staff plan to attend, such as Broward Water Matters Day on March 14, 2026, and Household Hazardous Waste Event on June 20, 2026.

FUTURE TOPICS

Road-mapping for future meetings: Recommendations for staff to coordinate invitations to various subject matter experts to make presentations to the board. Vice Chair Creighton said she would like Mr. Jairo Gonzalez, President of Organics Foundation to do a presentation on recycling and composting. The board would like Mr. Tim Welch, City’s Utility Department, to give a presentation on wastewater, and possibly Commissioner Good to talk about solid waste.

- **Motion** was made by **Vice Chair Creighton**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to direct the Board Liaison to invite Mr. Jairo Gonzalez to talk to the board about composting at a future meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to direct the Board Liaison to invite and coordinate with the City Utilities Director to present information about wastewater at a future meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS: Member Stephens spoke about a fertilizer ordinance but was not sure if this would be old business and asked if the City had a fertilizer ordinance. While *fertilizer* is mentioned in several City ordinances, there was no specific “fertilizer ordinance.”

ANNUAL CALENDAR: Mr. Gomes expanded the calendar to include all city events, including those with themes aligned to sustainability. Member Naigur asked about the Easter Egg Hunt in April and whether plastic Easter Eggs had to be used. Discussion ensued about the possibility of recycling the plastic eggs.

Member Stephens spoke of the *Seed: The Untold Story* DVD and she offered to share it with other members of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion** was made by **Member Marcos**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to extend the board meeting to another five (5) minutes past the 7:30 PM adjournment time. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Rimarachin**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

NEXT MEETING: April 7, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines, FL

APPROVED: 4/7/2026

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
April 7, 2026

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on April 7, 2026, was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Smith, Lewis, Stephens, and Marcos and Cordova.

Absent: Members Bonilla, Naigur and Rimarachin.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, Bobbi Williams, and Vanessa De Souza. Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Graham called the roll but was unable to immediately declare a quorum until the arrival of Vice Chair Creighton, Members Stephens and Cordova, due to inclement weather. A quorum was then declared.

Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith said she could discuss fertilizer matters and state of the law on fertilizer ordinances if the meeting proceeded as a workshop without a quorum. Members expressed the need to reduce harmful ingredients in fertilizers. Member Stephens said the City should be reducing and examining the contents of fertilizer and using only those fertilizers with lower amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus. The objective would be to have an ordinance directing City residents not to fertilize during the rainy season to prevent run-off.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting minutes of March 3, 2026.

Pursuant to discussions and a motion at the last meeting, Board members did not receive printed copies of the minutes, to reduce paper usage in line with the sustainability objectives of the board.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026, Environmental Advisory Board. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Bobbi Williams introduced herself and gave her report.

Arbor Day Poster Contest Judging Process— Liaison Williams gave an overview of the Arbor Day Poster Contest, held annually to celebrate Arbor Day and encourage student participation from schools in Pembroke Pines. A total of 32 posters were submitted by students this year ranging from Kindergarten to Fifth Grade. These posters were displayed in the meeting room, organized by grade level for ease of judging. Ms. Williams led the judging process and provided clear instructions to the board members. Each member of the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) received voting stickers to use for their selections. The judging guidelines specified that each board member should review the posters by grade and select two favorites per grade, using two stickers for each grade level. After the board members completed their selections, the Planning and Development Department was tasked with tabulating the scores. The results, including the first, second, and third place winners for each grade, will be announced at the next commission meeting scheduled for April 15, 2026. All submitted posters will be exhibited in the City Hall Lobby during the week of April 13–16, 2026. Recognition of Arbor Day and the presentation of a Proclamation will take place at the Commission meeting on April 15, 2026, where the winning posters will be acknowledged.

June 3, 2026 Board Night Report—Draft: Liaison Williams discussed the draft annual report with board members. They focused on highlights of board accomplishments and recommendations. Ms. Williams invited board members to send their comments on recommendations to staff before the next meeting on May 5, so that the draft can be finalized and voted on prior to Board Night on June 3. Vice Chair Creighton asked if members could send their individual priority lists to be integrated into one list for discussion and approval by the board. Members commented that having the new Sustainability Coordinator was an accomplishment.

Site Plan(s) Sustainability Alignment: Liaison Gomes discussed updates with site plan alignment with sustainability goals. There were no new Site Plans to report.

Vice Chair Creighton asked how board members would format their recommendations when submitting them. Mr. Gomes said wording on the recommendations could be in the form of a motion, for example: *Motion to recommend that the Commission consider composting programs...* or something specific. Mr. Gomes encouraged board members to come to the next EAB meeting prepared so that accomplishments, recommendations and other items can be discussed and voted on by the board for inclusion in the annual report to be presented on June 3, 2026.

Members of the board were informed about the Municipal Solid Waste Workshop that was scheduled for April 29, 2026 at 4 PM in the Commission Chambers.

Member Stephens said she might not be able to attend the workshop and wanted to know if a video of the meeting can be viewed afterward on the website.

Broward County Water Matters: Liaison Williams spoke about the Broward Water Matters Day event at Tree Tops Park on March 14, 2026, where approximately 2,390 plants were distributed to roughly 3,500 residents. She highly recommended that members attend future events if they can. Some members had scheduling conflicts because the event is held on a Saturday.

Commission Items: Great Yards Awards presented by the City Commission:

District 1 – James and Anne Fett, January 2026, District 2 – Roger and Lynn Morris, February 2026, District 3 – Antonio and Christine Perez, March 2026.

Mr. Gomes stated that the Planning Department now handles the Great Yards Award process monthly. Staff visit nominees' homes to review properties. Member Stephens inquired about the number of applications received, while Member Smith asked if judging criteria considered types of plants in landscaping. Mr. Gomes said he would check for related data.

Ms. Williams spoke about the 2026 Virtual Water Ambassador Program Synthetic Turfgrass presented by Commissioner Schwartz who recommended the *Ecosystem Impacts of Artificial Turf* video be shared with the board.

Member Stephens spoke on the matter of sustainability and landscaping and she said she discussed the video with some of the elected officials.

ATTENDANCE:

The Board excused the absences of Members Naigur and Bonilla from the April 7, 2026 board meeting.

Assistant City Attorney Nesmith stated that advance notification of tardiness or absence by board members is valuable, as it allows the board to determine whether to proceed in workshop format when a quorum is not present. She emphasized the importance of notifying staff prior to the meeting; otherwise, an absence will be classified as unexcused. No notification was received by Member Rimarachin for her absence. Mr. Gomes reported that Member Bonilla indicated via email her intention to resign from the board due to relocation outside the city. It remains uncertain whether the May meeting will be her final appearance.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Vice Chair Creighton**, to excuse the absences of Members Bonilla and Naigur at the April 7, 2026 board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ANNUAL CALENDAR: Ms. Williams commented on another Broward County tree-giveaway event on April 18, 2026 at Miramar Pineland Park.

FUTURE TOPICS: Ms. Williams discussed possible upcoming presentations to the board. A presentation from the Utilities Department may be scheduled for the May meeting. No presentation was planned for the EAB meeting in the month of June because of the consideration of cancelling the June EAB meeting due to its proximity to the June 3rd Board Night Annual Report Presentation at the Commission Meeting.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Stephens**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to cancel the June 2, 2026 Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting due to its proximity to the Board Night Annual Report presentation to the Commission on June 3, 2026. **The motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Gomes said the board could revisit further discussions on the complicated logistics of having the EAB board involved in the selection process of the

Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Awards. He said that transitioning the awarding of the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Awards from the EAB to City staff allowed for recognition of more residents. The restructuring increased the winners from 4 to 12. He clarified the importance of avoiding any violation of the Sunshine Law which is why board members cannot participate in the award selection as a group.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Williams reminded members of their recommendations to staff to finalize the draft annual report.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to extend the board meeting to another five (5) minutes past the 7:35 PM adjournment time. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

NEXT MEETING: May 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines

APPROVED: 5/5/2026

DRAFT MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

May 5, 2026

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on May 5, 2026, was called to order at 6:35 PM by Vice Chair Creighton.

Present: Vice Chair Creighton, Members Cordova, Lewis, Marcos, Naigur, Rimarachin and Smith.

Absent: Chair Tewari.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, Bobbi Williams, and Vanessa De Souza. Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum. Member Rimarachin arrived at 6:38 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the EAB meeting minutes of April 7, 2026.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Marcos**, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2026 Environmental Advisory Board. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ATTENDANCE:

The Board excused the absence of Chair Tewari from the May 5, 2026 EAB board meeting. Assistant City Attorney Nesmith mentioned the resignation of two board members, since the last meeting on April 7, 2026: Member Mary Stephens (At Large), and Member Claudia Bonilla (District 3). The board requires six (6) members present for quorum. If there was no quorum, the meeting would proceed as a workshop.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Cordova**, to excuse the absence of Chair Ram Tewari from the May 5, 2026 EAB meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Bobbi Williams spoke on the draft 2026 Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Board to be presented at the June 3, 2026 Commission Meeting.

June 3, 2026 Board Night Report—Draft: Liaison Williams discussed the draft annual report with board members. They focused on highlights of board accomplishments and recommendations.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to approve the 2026 Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Board for presentation at the Board Night Workshop at the June 3, 2026 Commission Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Member Marcos said he would like one of the recommendations in the annual report to include the commission helping to fill the EAB board vacancies as soon as possible.

Vice Chair Creighton wished to add a recommendation to the annual report regarding the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Award to update of the criteria that if two houses are nominated for the Great Yards Award, preference would be given to the property that meets environmental wildlife-habitat standards consistent with the City's sustainability green plan goals. Included in the recommendation would be a suggestion to update the provider of the gift cards received by award winners from Home Depot to instead come from of a local nursery with more natural wildlife and Florida-specific pieces that are not easily obtained at Home Depot.

Member Marcos said he felt the EAB board was better equipped to judge and nominate the winners of the Great Yards Awards, rather than Code Enforcement. Mr. Gomes discussed the process of nominating winners of the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Awards. He said Code Enforcement reviews the nominees to make sure that properties do not have any pending code violations before they are officially nominated. Also, as explained in previous meetings, board members cannot go out to visit and judge properties as a group due to possible violations of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Gomes

strongly encouraged EAB board members to attend Commission meetings when the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Awards are being presented.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to include in the recommendations the updating of the criteria that if two houses are nominated for the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Award, preference would be given to the property that meets environmental wildlife-habitat standards consistent with the City's sustainability green plan goals. Also updating the gift cards from Home Depot received by award winners to come instead from a local nursery with more natural wildlife and Florida-specific pieces that are not easily obtained at Home Depot. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Arbor Day Poster Contest—Ms. Williams presented the winning Arbor Day Poster Contest winners on the PowerPoint, from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade.

Site Plan(s) Alignment with Sustainability Goals:

Liaison Gomes discussed updates on site plan alignment with sustainability goals. There were no new Site Plans to report this month.

Sustainability Spotlight – City Connect Digital Newsletter: Mr. Gomes discussed the article in the April-May edition of City Connect and asked for ideas for the June-July edition. He suggested an article mentioning EAB vacancies. Other items for June-July included Sustainable Living for Families and Mini-Greenhouse. Vice Chair Creighton spoke about an item on plants that attract dragonflies which help reduce the number of mosquitoes. All ideas from board members can be sent to green@ppines.com.

Member Lewis asked if there was an age limit to serve on the EAB board. Assistant City Attorney Nesmith said she is reviewing the city ordinances relating to advisory boards. She has not seen any language regarding age requirements, but background qualifications required seem to suggest adults. She is continuing to review the question.

Commission Items:

Arbor Day Proclamation: Presented by the City Commission:

The city presented the Arbor Day proclamation to EAB Chair Ram Tewari, recognizing April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Pembroke Pines. Certificates were given to the Elementary School participants.

The RESOLVE Project: Mr. Gomes discussed the project that was presented during the Commission Visioning Workshop on April 29, 2026. "RESOLVE" means Recycling, Energy and Sustainable Organics Lifecycle Value Enhancement. The Commission supported the RFP for the RESOLVE project and SWA evaluation. Mr. Gomes recommended that board members watch the 4/29/2026 Visioning Workshop video on the City of Pembroke Pines website.

PRESENTATION: Utilities Director Tim Welch presented and discussed his PowerPoint on the city's utilities department program on biosolids management.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Cordova**, to extend the board meeting past 7:30 PM to a 7:40 PM adjournment time. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Cordova**, seconded by **Member Rimarachin**, to extend the board meeting by another fifteen (15) minutes past 7:40 PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Rimarachin**, seconded by **Member Smith**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM

NEXT MEETING: August 4, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines, FL

APPROVED: _____