

ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

TO: Mayor and City Commissioners
FROM: Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)
CHAIR: Ram Tewari
VICE CHAIR: Carlos Marcos
REPORTING TERM: September 2021 through April 2022
DATE: April 28, 2022

HISTORY / OVERVIEW

The Environmental Advisory Board is proud to submit our annual report for review to the City Commission. The report is required to be submitted per Section 32.011 of the City's Code of Ordinances as specifically referenced below:

“On or before May 1 of each year, the respective advisory board or committee shall forward to the City Commission a summary of the advisory board or committee's accomplishments during the prior year, along with any recommendations or suggestions to the City Commission regarding any improvements to city operations, ordinances, or policies, they see fit to transmit based on their work and observations over that year. (Ord. 1697, passed 9-7-11)”

On November 28, 1990, the City Commission approved Ordinance 941, thus creating the Landscape Advisory Board. At the time of creation the Board consisted of 5 members which served in an advisory capacity to the City Commission regarding landscaping. On February 15, 2017, the City Commission approved Ordinance 1869, restructuring the Landscape Advisory Board (LAB) into the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). This restructure has broadened the Board's duties and responsibilities from landscape and aesthetics toward environmental protection and conservation.

The role of the Environmental Advisory Board is to provide constructive advice and counsel to the City Commission, with a broad outlook toward environmental protection and conservation to the City Commission as well as recommendations on the adoption, prioritization and implementation of initiatives, actions, policies, and public outreach and education programs to support and promote all aspects of sustainability and/or going green.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the suspension of Environmental Advisory Board meetings from April 2020 – March 2021. Since the resumption of meetings, the Board was able to meet the following months.

- March 2021 (No quorum - workshop held)
- April 2021 (No quorum - workshop held)
- June 2021 (No quorum - workshop held)
- September 2021
- November 2021
- December 2021
- February 2022
- March 2022 (No quorum - workshop held)
- April 2022 (No quorum - workshop held)

Per Section 32.101, the Environmental Advisory Board shall consist of 11 regular member and 1 alternate. Six members are require for quorum. Currently, the Board contains 7 members and 4 vacancies (1 – District 1, 2 – District 2, 1 – District 3). Due to the large amount of vacancies and abnormal quorum requirements, the Board has had difficulties meeting quorum on several occasions within its meeting cycle. To avoid future disruptions in Board operations, the EAB encourages the City Commission to consider appointting additional members to increase Board representation.

While Board membership is low compared to Code requirements, the Board is academically qualified, having 3 members holding doctorate degrees in their fields of study and 2 other members with advanced engineering degrees.

City staff continue to provide the EAB with monthly liaison reports that inform members of landscape inspections, tree removals, new landscaping throughout the city, and updates on new projects with significant environmental impact. The Board also continues to receive legislative environmental updates related to our areas of focus.

EAB ACKNOWLEDGES

The EAB acknowledges, the City has made several environmentally impactful additions in the City based on recommendations from the Board.

These additions include:

1. The addition of the Sustainability Section to the Land Development Code (LDC) update.
2. The City has hired consultants to perform various energy audit that measure environmental impact.

3. The City recently partnered with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, who will provide household hazardous waste drop off events for our residents.
4. The City continues to improve the Waste Water Treatment facility to create consistency in the production of Class AA biosolids.
5. The City continues to work with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to bring improvements and additions to form complete streets within the City.

EAB ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Board's primary focus over the last year has been aiding in the update to the City's Green Plan. To date, the EAB has reviewed all six chapters of the Green Plan. The Board's main task with the update is the following:

1. Evaluate the original goals and objectives from the Green Plan.
2. Review the Citywide accomplishments and changes in policies made since the implementation of the original Green Plan.
3. Recommend new goals and objectives to meet future needs.

In addition to working on the Green Plan update the Board has also reviewed the following topics:

- Review of past EAB recommendations and motions (2016 – 2019)
- Discussion of solar installations
 - Presentation of benefits of Solar Energy residential installations by Member Tripathi.
- Discussion of an education campaign focused on recycling.
- Discussion of potential incorporation of electric vehicles into the City's fleet.
- Discussion and recommendation of a Sustainability position through City Government:
 - Presentation of Sustainability Coordinator operations in Cities by Member Naigur.
- Review of the City's environmental efforts including:
 - Review and Discussion of Con Edison and Venergy Reports.
 - Review of the City's new waste policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The EAB recommends the following action to the City Commission for their considerations:

- The EAB strongly recommends that the city expeditiously considers the viability of a creating a sustainability coordinator position that will assist in providing the city

with direction to establish a comprehensive sustainability framework, identify cost savings, improve the lives of low-income residents and prepare the city for extreme weather events, including but not limited to flooding, hurricanes, extreme heat. (Motion passed 4-1)

CONCLUSION

In the coming Board year, the EAB will continue to aid staff in the update of the Green Plan. The goal is to have the updated Green Plan adopted late 2022. In addition, the Board supports Plans and Policies adopted by the City Commission that enhance quality of life, promote responsible growth and are committed to conserving our natural resources. The Board's desire is to support the City and City Commissioners to create a livable home for residents and future generations that will create prosperity for all following sustainable development.

The Board welcomes your feedback and suggestions to any topics that you would like us to explore or that have not yet been addressed. Thank you for allowing us to serve the City of Pembroke Pines.

ATTACHMENTS

EAB Minutes June 2021 – May 2022

EAB Attendance Log June 2021 – May 2022

EAB Past Recommendations and Motions 2016 – 2019

EAB Membership History