

PUBLIC NOTICE
Environmental Advisory Board Regular Meeting
Wednesday September 25, 2019
Masny Room, 6:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Curtis Byrd called a regular meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. Kelli Hunsucker, Member
 - b. Curtis Byrd, Chair
 - c. Bruce Morgan, Member
 - d. Elizabeth Mascaro, Town Manager
 - e. Taylor Greene, FIT Student
 - f. Alec Buchness, Surfrider
 - g. Neal Thompkins, Guest
 - h. Zarya Dahl, FIT Student

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
 - a. July minutes.
 - b. There were no minutes from the last meeting.

- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. The EAB discussed the PATs (Priority Action Items) which are part of the Guidelines for Sustainability Actions. Curtis had begun to implement action items for each of the PATs. The EAB discussed and made some edits to these action items. See the red notes in the attached PAT Draft Implementation Plan (see below).

- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Alec Buchness gave an overview of the Surfrider foundation and our local chapter, the Sebastian Inlet Chapter (www.sebastianinlet.surfrider.org). Alec also gave a summary of the Surfrider National Summit, which was held in August in Irvine, CA.
 - b. International Coastal Clean-up was September 21st. There was a location at Ocean Ave and a lot of trash was collected.
 - c. Taylor mentioned her attendance at the Brevard Sustainability Working Group. She told them about the town's GSA.

- VI. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. Bruce motioned 7:58 to adjourn, Kelli second. All in favor.

PAT Initial Implementation Plan

Upon further review of the preceding list of action items in terms of estimated cost, time to completion, and impact, 15 items were identified as Priority Action Items (PATs). These initiatives should be high priority steps in implementation of these Guidelines, although other opportunities will be pursued as resources and changing system dynamics allow. The list derives from actions summarized above in these six Focus Areas:

- **Built/Natural Environment**
- **Energy**
- **Transportation**
- **Waste Management**
- **Water**
- **Education and Outreach**

These PATs will be reviewed and updated annually. Individual PATs can range in scale from specific actions to larger clusters of actions. In the latter case, the PAT will refer to the specific Focus Area and Objective with the clustered actions. The PATs are not ordered by priority.

1. Design, educate and implement low impact development stormwater management techniques

One of the primary challenges in Melbourne Beach is stormwater management. Heavy rains already create nuisance flooding which, combined with other factors, will get worse (e.g., [NOAA's Digital Coast](#)) and increase runoff pulses of pollutants into the IRL. Several possible responses do not require expensive infrastructure additions. Specific projects in this cluster are itemized above in Water, Objective 1.

****Actions: An individual from Harbor East is very interested in assisting the Town regarding Stormwater improvements. He said that he would be at our next meeting. Neal was in attendance. He will be meeting with Duane Defreese from the IRLNEP, and report back at the next meeting.***

2. Identify and acquire resources to expanded current composting efforts

Composting can significantly improve waste management, natural landscaping, and carbon dioxide reduction. In 2018, the town partnered with Green Earth Composting to initiate a successful pilot composting program reaching over 80 participants per month. We will expand compost project planning and funding.

**** Contact Keep Brevard Beautiful for info on their new Composting program. KBB POC***

*is : Kaylyn Palmer, Environmental Programs Coordinator,
kaylynpalmerkbb@gmail.com, 321-631-0501 x212 (Office), 321-458-4576 (Cell).*

*Also, contact Scott Parker who runs the Green Earth Compost program for MB.
GreenEarthCompost@gmail.com , (321) 616-2967.*

Taylor will contact KBB to see what they are doing, and their educational efforts. This could be something that is included in the welcome wagon or a popcorn science. Collins Aerospace may have funding for this as well.

3. Create a “Welcome Wagon” package with sustainability information for new residents

Town Hall, with the help of the EAB and FIT interns will develop these packages. We want to include the community in sustainability initiatives as much as possible.

**This is a strong interest for our Mayor and should be an easy, useful target to complete. Work with the EAB and Town Staff to review Town Ordinances and combine these with common sense sustainability items to provide new and existing residents. This should be both electronic and printable.*

This could possibly also be in partnership with local real relators, possibly passing along to the Brevard Realtor Association. Taylor will begin working on this, and work with the town to make sure that specifics are included. There is also a subpage on the town’s page with regards to “Welcome to the Town”.

4. Restrict and eliminate the use of toxic or carcinogenic chemicals in all public spaces, including playgrounds, school yards and parks

Diverse municipal governments are examining and implementing steps to reduce and eliminate use of toxic chemicals in public spaces. This issue will be scoped with a focus on existing precedents for ordinance-based actions.

** We need an inventory of what chemicals we currently are using and then determine if there are alternate products that can be use that are less or non-toxic. The initial assessment must be coordinated with Public Works.*

Town Manager Mascaro mentioned the town has already begun looking into this. Taylor will begin looking into this as well.

5. Plan and standardize an educational campaign of quarterly “Popcorn Science” lectures

The EAB and community partners will be responsible for planning and conducting these lectures and outreach events.

**A list of lecture subjects need to be developed then a schedule of these events need to be completed. Check the Library for room availability and, if not, see if Town*

Community Center is available for those dates. While we are determining the subjects we need to have in mind who will be able to come in and speak on these subjects
We may also be able to tie this in with Gemini and speakers. Taylor will begin a list of potential topics.

6. Manage Ryckman Park as a leading example of sustainable park management

Popular and centrally located, Ryckman Park provides an excellent opportunity for sustainability initiatives. Multiple actions are listed in Built and Natural Environment, Objective 4.

**Need to determine what opportunities other city parks have that could be implemented into our long term plans for Ryckman Park. A list of the initiatives should be submitted to the Town Manager for future improvement to the park. Again, work with Public Works to assess the initiatives.*

The improvements can be spaced out throughout a certain time period, meaning they don't have to all be done in the first year.

7. Increase renewable energy use within town municipal infrastructure

This is an overarching PAT that includes several action items within Energy Objectives 1 and 3 above. Near- and intermediate-term priority actions include:

- Conduct energy audits and establish a tracking system to identify municipal building energy consumption.
- Complete the replacement of all current lighting in municipal buildings and streets with more efficient LED bulbs.
- Install at least one electric vehicle charging station within town limits.
- Assess feasibility of solar energy installation on town properties and implement a small solar project, with a long-term goal of powering all municipal buildings.
- Voluntarily strive for town operations to use 100% renewable energy by 2030, actions in Energy, Objective 1.

**This target will be more involved that many of the others so a more detailed renewable energy plan should be written describing actions.*

Town Manager Mascaro mentioned the possibility of getting charging stations along Ocean Ave.

Everyone will start brainstorming some actions for this PAT.

8. Foster solar energy use within the residential and business community

Melbourne Beach offers an increasing affordable location for solar energy installation and long-term savings. This is an overarching PAT that includes several action items within Energy, Objective 2, on energy efficiency in the community.

**A good start for this PAT would be to bring the Florida Solar Energy Center and a Solar Energy Co-op to Melbourne Beach for a Popcorn Science lecture to educate our community.*

Curtis will contact the Solar Center.

9. Become a certified Dark Sky Community

Scope and initiate steps to become an [International Dark Sky Community](#) with benefits that will accrue from sea turtles to human quality of life.

**Contact the International Dark Sky Community and see what we need to do to qualify.*

10. Prioritize living shorelines with a focus on street ends next to the IRL

The town should design, develop, prioritize and implement projects at the end of publicly owned land to demonstrate how native plantings can protect the IRL with partners such as Surfrider Foundation, Brevard County, and the MRC.

**Determine what public shorelines are available, discuss possibilities with Public Works, contact Nicole Perna, nstrickler@icloud.com, Bill DeLucia, deluccias@hotmail.com, for design suggestions, contact Surfrider and MRC for possible support, contact KBB regarding native plant grant funding.*

Map out the public shorelines in Melbourne Beach.

11. Develop and maintain a sustainability webpage

Town staff, the EAB, and supporting interns will create and maintain a webpage outlining Melbourne Beach sustainability planning and progress.

**Work with Town Staff to determine an ADA approved webpage.*

The town has a sustainability page. Taylor will check out the page and see where it can be modified.

12. Identify unsafe transportation areas and develop plans to address them

Increased road congestion from a rising population has led to many unsafe streets around town. The residents of Melbourne Beach should be able to sustainably use their neighborhood roads without compromising their safety. Priority areas will be identified with an evaluation of alternatives to increase safety.

**Need to do in-depth study on traffic patterns of Town. Identify safety improvements that can be made and list all possible improvements that could be made.*

There was just a traffic survey done by FDOT (around Spessard Holland to around Miami Ave). This would form the basis of a study to determine traffic patterns.

13. Develop residential and commercial incentive programs

Instead of mandating certain actions, the town can inspire residents through incentive programs. The EAB will work with a Florida Tech intern to research other municipal

programs and brainstorm possible incentive programs to include issues like water use, native planting, and stormwater retention.

****Identify incentive programs that other towns used to help make their communities more sustainable.***

Surfrider and KBB have programs established. A more thorough list of these programs can be compiled and placed on the website. Taylor will begin working on putting together the list.

14. Scope and perform grant writing to enhance the sustainability efforts of the town (applies to all Six Focus Areas)

External funds are essential to some sustainability initiatives and potential sources exist within various sectors. Sources will be identified and scoped with town staff and the EAB to identify and pursue funding opportunities.

****Make a database of all possible grants that the town could obtain. Identify possible grant partners that we could team with to increase chances of receiving grants. See if there are town citizens that could help in this process.***

Katie had begun a list. The town also has a list.

15. Evaluate the returns on investment for a Sustainability Officer position to implement and fund the town's sustainability and resilience guidelines with the EAB, staff, and community (applies to all Six Focus Areas)

This is a common action in cities and counties that are making rapid sustainability strides and increasing local grant revenues. There are diverse examples now in Central Florida and South Florida, as around the country.

****Determine towns, cities or counties that hiring sustainability officers. Investigate to see if grants are funding these positions. Develop a job description. Determine if a part time position would be feasible for this task.***

Actionable items have to be established, with a clear path forward, and with value to the town for a permanent position to be created. Taylor will keep a look out for grants that do fund positions.