

CITY OF COCOA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2021

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the City of Cocoa was held on Thursday, August 5, 2021 in the Council Chambers at 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, as publicly noticed.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Jennifer Riggs called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Jennifer Riggs	Board Chairperson
Marlene Weiss	Board Vice Chairperson
Joy Rutherford	Board Member
Paige Horr	Board Member
Linda Gombert	Board Member
Jonathan Templeton	Board Member
Diana Robinson	Board Member
Ronald Deal	Board Member
Jennifer Kenny	Board Member
Kate Rooney-Otero	Board Member
Lorraine Koss	Council Liaison

PRESENT:

Jennifer Riggs	Board Chairperson
Marlene Weiss	Board Vice Chairperson
Paige Horr	Board Member
Jonathan Templeton	Board Member
Linda Gombert	Board Member
Diana Robinson	Board Member
Kate Rooney-Otero	Board Member (<i>arrived at 6:06</i>)
Lorraine Koss	Council Liaison

ABSENT:

Ronald Deal	Board Member
Jennifer Kenny	Board Member
Joy Rutherford	Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Lori Chabot, Recording Secretary, Terri Clendenin, License/Permit Technician.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairperson Riggs led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. AGENDA: Review, Revision and Approval –

1. Agenda

- **MOTION by Vice Chairperson WEISS; SECONDED by Board Member HERR to approve the Agenda for the August 5, 2021 meeting as written.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0)

Board Member Kathleen Rooney-Otero arrived 6:06 pm.

MINUTES: Review, Revision and Approval

Recording Secretary, Lori Chabot stated the Minutes from 7-1-21 need clarification on a few items and will be presented for approval at the next (9-2-21) Sustainability Board Meeting. Mrs. Chabot confirmed a couple of items from the previous months' meeting with the Board and the following two motions were reaffirmed.

- **MOTION by Board Member ROBINSON; SECONDED by Vice Chairperson WEISS to have a workshop on the third Thursday of each month. The next workshop will be Thursday, August 19, 2021.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

- **MOTION by Chairperson RIGGS; SECONDED by Board Member Rooney-Otero to appoint Board Member Marlene Weiss as speaker coordinator for the SAB Board meetings.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

IV. DELEGATIONS: None

V. PRESENTATIONS:

Zachary Eichholz, Sustainability Program Manager and Resilience Planner, of City of Cape Canaveral
Brenda DeFoe, City Planner, of City of Cape Canaveral. Presentation is attached and part of the minutes.

Sustainable Development in Action

Presented by:
Zach Eichholz, City of Cape Canaveral Sustainability Manager
Brenda Defoe-Surprenant, City of Cape Canaveral Senior Planner



The Future of Cities Must be Green

- Cities are driving sustainable policy development
- Cities have the ability to quickly bring about positive change
- Cities contribute the most to:
 - Resource usage (utilities)
 - Consumption of materials
 - Waste
 - Emissions



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Preparing for Challenges and Opportunities

- Challenges:
 - Extreme weather
 - Population growth
 - Aging infrastructure

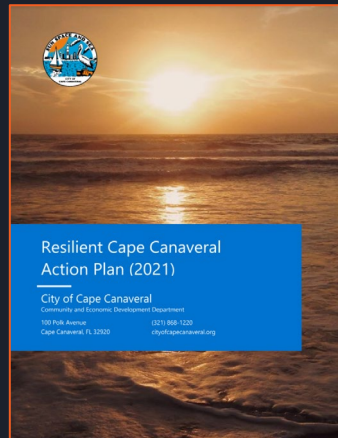


- Opportunities:
 - Economic growth
 - Cleaner energy
 - Smart design and resilience

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2021 Resiliency Action Plan

- Master action plan for the City's sustainability and resilience-based initiatives
- 2 years of drafting and development
- 30 year implementation timeline (~2050)
- 56 Preparedness Targets: actionable living goals meant to enhance community wellbeing and resilience of City operations against disasters
- Plan will help transform Cape Canaveral through every level of its policies and infrastructure



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Sea Oat Plantings/Green Infrastructure



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New Alternative Fuel Vehicles



- Electric vehicles (EVs) do not release any tailpipe emissions
- EVs can be more resilient since we can make our own power for them

6

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



7

Storm water Exfiltration System s



- 930,000 gallon stormwater holding capacity

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Solar Lighting



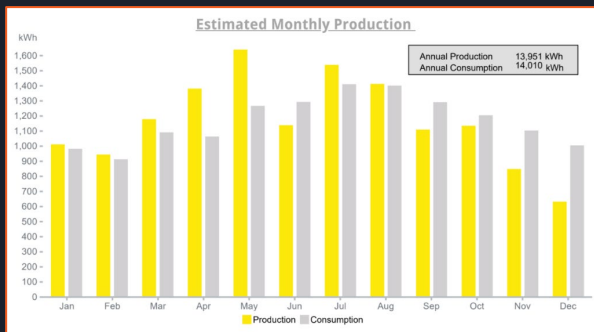
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Water Reclamation Facility Improvements



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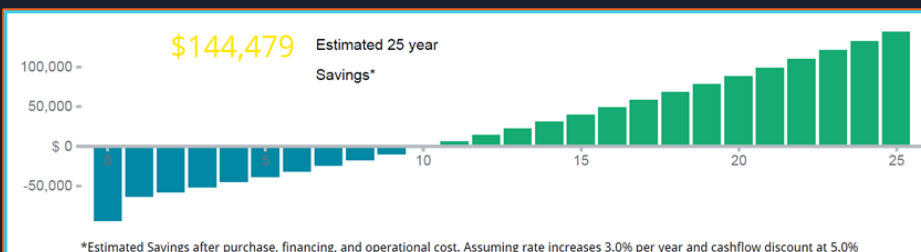
Water Reclamation Facility Improvements



- Next year Cape Canaveral will install a new solar array on its Public Works Administrative Building
- >\$55,000 in energy savings over 25 years

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BCSO Cape Canaveral Precinct Solar Array



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CAPE Center (solar)

- Solar stats

- Array type: Ballasted
- Power capacity: 33 kw
- Estimated annual energy output: 38,129 kwh
- Money saved off electrical bill: \$108,773 after 25 years
- CO2 savings: 1,445,490 lbs. after 25 years
- Wind rating: 160 mph
- Panel #: 56



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Multi-Generational Facility



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Multi-Generational Facility



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Mr. Eichholz continued with his presentation discussing the history and their projects especially those that are high level as well as the solar energy projects. He continued adding we are experiencing extreme weather conditions that need to be addressed.

Questions from the board:

Chairperson Riggs asked how they found their green infrastructure projects. Mr. Eichholz replied they budgeted them adding that the costs is normally small.

Councilwoman Koss asked about the pocket parks he had mentioned. Mr. Eichholz replied it was a designation for a very tiny park. He continued explaining where they are looking to do a few in areas where they fit to add for more stormwater cleanup. Chairperson Riggs asked if they had exfiltration in the area and he replied they did not adding it was also a Monarch Butterfly habitat.

Councilwoman Koss asked about signage for the Monarch Butterfly garden? He replied there was not any signage. Councilwoman Koss asked if people knew about it. He replied he wasn't sure but it enhances the natural beauty with a lot of flowers and blooms.

Chairperson Riggs asked about the sunsails, resources and costs. He was not sure but will get her the information.

Board Member Gombert asked what he called the paving used in the park are. He responded it was flexipave.

Councilwoman Koss explained her interest in the pocket parks because there are areas along Indian River Drive that could be. In some instances they are privately owned but the areas owned by the City have the potential to serve another purpose. Maybe another access point to the lagoon for residents.

Vice Chairperson Weiss asked Mr. Eichholz how they got to where they were and the time frame. He replied it has taken 5-6 years. Ms DeFoe spoke, introduced herself explaining the course of events to get to where they were today. They started out with a project at City Hall and secured a grant. With that, they were able to have a vulnerability assessment study performed. The study became their foundation and began their course of action. Any project would be assessed as to how it would be more sustainable, stating everything is budgeted and emphasized through community engagement. Ms. DeFoe continued with more detail about the exfiltration system and how the project came about. She continued they used the assessment study along with policy to create every project and have been building over the last few years. The PIO publishes information on website, the conduct sustainability workshops and outreach efforts and how things tie back to sustainability.

Chairperson Riggs asked Ms. DeFoe about her educational background and the grants. She explained how they applied for grants and who she worked with.

Discussion continued about grants, processes, use of PIO and other city resources, educating the public. Mr. Eichholz added they have been successful with interns.

Vice Chairperson Weiss asked about the flood barriers shown in the powerpoint. Mr. Eichholz replied they can be purchased online and work very well preventing flooding.

Councilwoman Koss asked about wastewater testing for Covid. Mr. Eichholz replied they are testing their own wastewater for covid levels. She asked if it was something they got a grant for the costs. Mr. Eichholz replied he would give Councilwoman Koss the companies contact.

Councilwoman Koss asked the board if they wanted to pass a motion on something?

Vice Chairperson Weiss asked if they have advice or could they partner? Ms. DeFoe recommended to start with community conversations and community engagements and have open discussion to build a team in the community and create support. This along with the assessment is the foundation.

Chairperson Riggs asked if they have a budget for that communication. She said everything tied to other projects and was part of the budget. She said they performed a community survey and worked from that tying into other departments. She also emphasized the value of demonstrating financial savings.

Mr. Eichholz asked what the Sustainability Board was working on now and discussion continued about current projects and successes. Vice Chairperson Weiss asked about their Community Garden and Mr. Eichholz replied it was small but going well and was self-sustaining. He added they help with big fixes but the gardeners maintained. They recently added a 500-gallon rain tank with a pergola that catches rain and feeds into tank. Chairperson Weiss asked for the company name and he replied he will provide that. Councilwoman Koss asked if there was a pump and he replied it was gravity fed but you could add one. Chairperson Riggs mentioned the success of the beemats project and the proven benefits. Councilwoman Koss mentioned the tree inventory plan and plantings. Councilwoman Koss relayed the issue is they are a volunteer group and staff doesn't look through a sustainability and resiliency lens. Ms. DeFoe replied it may be a matter of prioritizing and fulfilling policies in a way that is not just to meet the base line but goes a little above incrementally.

Councilwoman Koss asked about identifying properties to purchase and using FEMA's Mitigation grant. She replied not there yet, just completed the plan update and have identified problem areas. Discussion continued about the FEMA grants.

Mr. Eichholz also stated they work with the Regional Planning Council and state representatives that have assisted them with necessary resources and connections. Ms. DeFoe stated a new law has been signed and will create new grant funding.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Educational Speaker Plan**
2. Panel Discussion
3. LaPlant Tree Grant
4. Nutrition/ Food/Garden
5. Healthcare Access in Cocoa

Item 1: Educational Speaker Plan

October – Mike Knight, Brevard County EEL Program
November – League of Cities, Voting Process

Councilwoman Koss stated a flier is being developed identifying speakers to be distributed and make available at various locations and at council meetings, social media adds, etc.

Item 2: Panel Discussion

Councilwoman Koss mentioned a project septic to sewer with the design in early 2022 and ground breaking by end of 2022-2023. She emphasized that this is a great teaching moment to educate people. Board Member Templeton asked if individuals will have pay. Councilwoman Koss replied it is sales tax from Save Our Indian River Lagoon that generates 400 million. The idea was to be able to leverage other dollars specifically in regard to water projects. She continued, the lagoon in crisis mode. The plan was designed to take everything that is within 100 to 50 yards to sewer rather than septic so there is supposed to be funding for those that are within 50 yards, however prices are going up. There will be dollars for hook up.

Board Member Templeton asked if there would be an assessment for these costs if we don't have the funds. Councilwoman Koss said yes, likely. Board Member Horr asked if there should be funds already. Councilwoman Koss replied the taxes are sales tax that will pay for everything going into ground. Councilwoman Koss explained once pipe laid can connect more easily within City.

Board Member Rooney-Otero suggested putting in the solar lights like Cape Canaveral along Indian River. Board Member Templeton added, for \$1,500 to \$3,000 each and they were paying for themselves. Councilwoman Koss will mention these to utilities.

Vice Chairperson Weiss stated she would like to think about how to work with the community and what it would look like. Board Member Rooney-Otero mentioned piggy backing the utility sewer project. Councilwoman Koss agreed when they are doing the permitting.

Councilwoman Koss mentioned Indian River Lagoon and it belongs to everyone and the need for more access points and she was hoping the pocket parks would help with that. Discussion continued about different areas that could be a public access point. Vice Chairperson Weiss mentioned the pump station areas that maybe could be used as beautification areas and stormwater areas adding that using these areas as a stormwater could create a cost savings. Discussion continued among board about possible ideas or projects to work with the public as well as how to plug into community events, what to take to council, how to piggy back on other events and have representation there. Discussion continued on what event to look into and keep thinking through coming up with a couple to focus on. Chairperson Riggs stated they would keep thinking and decide what to take to Council and asked to have the slides forwarded to board.

- **MOTION by Vice Chairperson WEISS ; SECONDED by Chairperson RIGGS** to request the City of Cocoa establish a Sustainability presence at community events to educate Cocoa residents and to develop an awareness of their sustainability related needs that can inform recommendations to Council.

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

Two topics for the next workshop are:

1. Septic to sewer educational opportunities arounds septic to sewer
2. Use of greenspaces to continue as a panel discussion at the working

Item 3: LaPlant Tree Grant

Vice Chairperson Weiss stated Teri Laplant League of City will be getting a tree grant and to put shade trees at Bracco Park.

Vice Chairperson Weiss also stated she got funding for soil and seed for the community garden. Board Member Robinson said she was able to work with Rotary Club at the garden. She added Boys from Inspire will be able to help in the future. Vice Chairperson Weiss shared she likes the idea of the tank that Mr. Eichholz mentioned. She is currently working to capture water for the garden. She also mentioned sun shades or drain tarps. Board Member Robinson mentioned a structure was already there and would be able to be used for water retention but needs a covering. She also mentioned she is in contact with Boys and Girls Club to partner with at the Garden.

- **Motion made by Chairperson RIGGS; Seconded by Board Member ROBINSON for Sustainability Board to request council to ensure a 3-year commitment to make 1112 Peachtree Street accessible as the community garden.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

Councilwoman Koss will ask to add Marlene Weiss to Presentations for the next Council Meeting on August 24.

Chairperson Riggs stated a while back they had decided someone should be at every meeting and asked who will be at the August 10th meeting. Board Member Rooney-Otero said she would try to attend.

Item 5: Healthcare Access in Cocoa

Chairperson Riggs stated there are currently not any health clinics. BHA used to come with medical assistance. Board Member Rooney- Otero added she knows of some speakers in health care in 2022 and will reach out to them.

Councilwoman Koss mentioned Elevate Brevard was doing a pilot program Elevate Cocoa with Family Promise of Brevard focused creating job opportunities. The director may be a good option for a future speaker. She can talk to her about walking clinic in Cocoa through BHA. This will be tabled to return to at next meeting.

Board Member Gonbert left at 7:59 pm

VII. BOARD MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES:

1. Pool Update:
Vice Chairperson Weiss reported she has made a public records request as to intentions at the pool.
2. XCTRY Trail Update: Chairperson Riggs reported they had two work days with students and so far so good with trail. The clearing went well but was very hot. Cleared maybe .8 miles.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 2, 2021 at 6:00PM

The next meeting for the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be a Regular Meeting, held on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at Cocoa City Hall located at 65 Stone Street, unless a business need arises earlier.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ **MOTION by Board Member HERR and SECONDED by Vice Chairperson WEISS to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 5, 2021 at 8:05 pm.**

AYES: ALL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0)

Jennifer Riggs, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lori Chabot, Recording Secretary