

CITY OF COCOA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2018

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the City of Cocoa was held on Thursday, August 2, 2018 in the Council Chambers at 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, as publicly noticed.

I. OPENING MATTERS:

Chairperson Koss called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. **Chairperson Koss** led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board Secretary called the roll.

ROLL CALL:

Lorraine Koss	Chairperson
Trina Gilliam	Vice Chairperson
Susan Hushla	Committee Member
Robert Musser	Committee Member
Gisele Neiman	Committee Member
Jennifer Riggs	Committee Member
Josephine Shim	Committee Member
Marlene Weiss	Committee Member
Raphel Costas	Committee Member
Brenda Warner	Council Liaison

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lorraine Koss	Chairperson
Trina Gilliam	Vice Chairperson
Susan Hushla	Committee Member
Robert Musser	Committee Member
Gisele Neiman	Committee Member
Jennifer Riggs	Committee Member
Josephine Shim	Committee Member
Marlene Weiss	Committee Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Raphel Costas	Committee Member
Brenda Warner	Council Liaison (arrival 6:10)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dodie Selig	Planning and Zoning Manager
Robert Loring	Planning and Zoning/Planner
Torri Edwards	Recording Secretary

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES:

AGENDA: Regular Meeting of August 2, 2018

MOTION by Committee member Shim; SECONDED by Vice Chairperson Gilliam to approve the Agenda with amendments for the August 2, 2018 regular meeting.

AYES: Koss, Gilliam, Hushla, Musser, Neiman, Riggs, Shim, Weiss

MOTION CARRIED (8-0)

MINUTES: Regular meeting of July 12, 2018

MOTION by Vice Chairperson Gilliam; SECONDED by Committee member Neiman to approve the Minutes for the July 12, 2018 regular meeting.

AYES: Koss, Gilliam, Hushla, Musser, Neiman, Riggs, Shim, Weiss

MOTION CARRIED (8-0)

III. OLD BUSINESS:
NONE

IV. PRESENTATIONS:
1. Mr. Tony Sasso

Mr. Tony Sasso, of Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB), 319 Cypress Drive, discussed two (2) programs with the committee. Litter Quitter is focused on eliminating the use of plastics and Styrofoam. The program has educated forty (40) restaurants in the area to distribute straws only by request.

Lagoon Friendly Lawns educates residents on designing lagoon friendly landscapes, i.e. minimizing runoff and reducing nutrients. There are over 300 lawns that participate in the program. A yard sign is provided to educate the community.

Mr. Sasso suggested that the committee consider creating programs that teach recycling in the schools and developing a community garden. He noted that contaminated recycling is a big problem. Mr. Sasso added that KBB could assist the committee with identifying grants and establishing a community garden.

Chairperson Koss asked what the process is for endorsing the KBB programs. **Council Liaison Warner** replied that the committee must make a motion to recommend to council.

Committee member Hushla inquired about the KBB programs for removing Pepper Trees. **Mr. Sasso** stated that KBB has a program for removing Pepper Trees and invasive plants at low to no cost for the city.

MOTION by Committee member Musser; SECONDED by Committee member Riggs to recommend to council to adopt the Litter Quitter and Lagoon Friendly Lawns programs.

AYES: Koss, Gilliam, Hushla, Musser, Neiman, Riggs, Shim, Weiss

MOTION CARRIED (8-0)

Committee member Riggs inquired whether KBB coordinates with the Public Works Department in other municipalities to ensure best use policies. **Mr. Sasso** replied that KBB does not have a program like that. **Council Liaison Warner** stated that the City currently practices lagoon friendly policies.

Chairperson Koss inquired whether staff has a list of public spaces for the next meeting. **Dodie Selig** noted that the City website has a list.

Council Liaison Warner reported that the City has a community garden and inquired who to contact with KBB to receive assistance. **Mr. Sasso** stated to contact Brian.

Committee member Shim inquired whether KBB has a strategy to market Lagoon Friendly Laws to low income areas. **Mr. Sasso** suggested posting yard signs, advertise on social media, hold community events, and post signs at community centers.

Committee member Neiman suggested contacting community churches to serve as a model gardens. **Council Liaison Warner** recommended that one of the committee members attend a Coalition of Pastors meeting to discuss the idea. **Vice Chairperson Gilliam** stated she would attend the meeting.

Committee member Weiss commended the Cocoa Police Department on programs that engage the children in the community. **Council Liaison Warner** discussed the Cocoa Police Department Summer Camp for Kids program.

2. Ms. Linda Seals

Ms. Linda Seals, Community Development Agent for UF/IFAS, of 3695 Lake Drive, stated that her office brings researched based information to the community. She discussed several programs that provide education and assistance for many sustainability areas. Their projects include the Farmer's Market at Wickham Park and Wickham Community Garden. They are in the process of developing a demonstrative teaching garden for the Cocoa location.

Ms. Seals stated that she has assisted several municipalities in training employees on proper lawn maintenance. **Chairperson Koss** inquired whether the assistance was a contracted service. **Ms. Seals** replied that it was not contracted at the time.

Ms. Seals noted she teaches the Sustainable Floridian Program. The next session is scheduled for October 30, 2018. She added that UF/IFAS will be hosting the National Sustainability Summit in Tampa on April 16, 2019 through April 19, 2019.

Chairperson Koss inquired on the process for developing a farmer's market.

Ms. Seals replied that a farmers market is challenging due to the lack of small farms and vendors in Brevard County. She suggested creating a mobile market as an alternative. **Chairperson Koss** inquired who would manage a mobile market. **Ms. Seals** replied that any organization could manage the mobile market.

Chairperson Koss inquired whether the City has identified food deserts in the community. **Council liaison Warner** replied that Cocoa Village and Clearlake Road are food deserts.

Committee member Hushla inquired whether UF/IFAS has an online event calendar. **Ms. Seals** stated that upcoming events are posted on Facebook.

Chairperson Koss requested assistance with resolution #13. **Ms. Seals** noted that she will get the committee in touch with the UF specialist.

V. DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY PLAN WORKPLAN AND TIMELINE:

- Committee Assignments

Vice Chairperson Gilliam stated that her task was extensive and will be presented at the next meeting.

Committee member Shim provided a presentation on her assignment of mapping the strategic plan to STAR. She discussed her procedure for mapping the documents and the results. The results were:

1. Safe Communities-resolution #1
2. Education/Civic Engagements-resolution #10
3. Civic Engagement/Best Practices/Quality Jobs-resolution #14

Committee member Riggs stated that she and **Committee member Neiman** worked together in creating a spreadsheet that mapped the Sustainability Policies to STAR. **Committee member Riggs** noted there is a color coded to key help translate the document. She noted areas that the City lacks in policies and practices.

Committee member Hushla asked when the City's Comprehensive Plan was created. **Ms. Selig** noted the document was originally created in 2010. The plan is due for a ten (10) year update.

Chairperson Koss explained her assignment to map the committee resolution to STAR. She discussed sustainability for low income neighborhoods, Indian River Drive right of way areas, developing walking trails by Walmart, improving recycling access, installing photo voltaic, purchasing alternative fuel vehicles, track energy efficiency, partnerships with local education providers, review of City codes for invasive planting and green buildings, communication, food desert, and Rain Barrel Program.

Ms. Selig inquired when the committee is requesting the presentations from the other departments and what information should be included.

Chairperson Koss replied that the committee would like presentations to start in September or October and limit them to two (2) per meeting. The committee would like to understand the department's current practices, policies, and future plans.

Committee member Hushla reported that she spoke with Deshaun Davis Patterson, Integrated Systems Management Manager of Palm Bay. The City created a sustainability plan in 2010 and the committee started meeting in February 2018. The committee is in the beginning stages and have not established a checks and balances procedure. Palm Bay is a participant in the STAR communities since 2014. They discussed cost and benefits of becoming a member with STAR.

Committee member Hushla noted that there are several grants available for writing sustainability plans.

Chairperson Koss requested that all committee members provide a similar format for their presentations. **Committee member Musser** suggested creating a share file on the committee website to store all the presentations and documents. **Ms. Selig** noted that she will check into this and have an update at the next meeting.

Committee member Hushla suggested inviting Katie Savoya, lead scientist for MRC, to speak on their Habitat Restoration Program at the meeting on September 6, 2018. **Committee member Weiss** request that Ms. Savoya also speak on the Green Business Program.

Chairperson Koss assigned the committee members to prioritize the resolution and STAR to their individual perspectives and items that can be accomplished the soonest. **Committee member Riggs** stated that she will create a template for the committee to relay their results. The committee members should submit the finished assignments to the recording secretary.

Committee member Riggs suggested that the committee start a list of addresses for potential community gardens.

Council liaison Warner inquired whether the committee wanted a resolution regarding bees brought to them before presenting to Council. **Chairperson Koss** recommended that she proceed to Council with the resolution.

- Discussion of presentations needed to develop the plan
 1. Reclaim
 2. Stormwater
 3. Public Works
 4. Fleet Services
 5. FSEC

VI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Paul Johnson, of 3010 Barkway Drive, stated that he created a chart using STAR and listed the order of priorities from one (1) being the highest to eight (8) being the lowest. He discussed the top three (3) results were Climate and Energy, Economy and Jobs, and Built Environment.

Chairperson Koss requested that all the committee members create a priority chart similar to **Mr. Johnson's** for the next meeting.

Lawrence Koss, of 2115 Indian River Dr., stated that he serves on the Planning and Zoning Board which also the Tree Board. He received a tree poster from Florida Urban Forestry Council that identifies the correct trees to plant in the correct location.

Mr. Koss stated that he and **Chairperson Koss** attended the Orange County meeting on possible plant areas. He discussed how other municipalities such as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania have implemented green structure to reduce stormwater cost.

Vice Chairperson Gilliam requested that **Mr. Koss** submit a report on how Philadelphia implemented the policy to reduce storm water cost.

Chairperson Koss inquired whether the committee could have tables set up for the future meetings instead of sitting at the bench. There are two (2) additional members joining the committee. **Ms. Selig** will check in to that.

VII. RESOURCES:

- City of Cocoa Comprehensive Plan <https://www.cocoafl.org/790/Comprehensive-Plan>
- STAR Communities <http://www.starcommunities.org>
- 100 Resilient Cities <http://100resilientcities.org/resources/#section-2>

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Gardening Class with Sally on August 7, 2018 at 6 pm.
2. Sustainable Floridian Program, October 30, 2018.
3. Satellite Beach has monthly sustainability workshops at the Civic Center.
4. The Brevard Sustainability Working Group generally meets on the 4th Monday of each month, from 12:00 pm-1:30 pm at the UF/IFAS office-3695 Lake Dr. Cocoa. The link from the June meeting is provided for your review.
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/120107742750384130>

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Committee member Shim; seconded by Committee member Riggs to adjourn.

AYES: Koss, Gilliam, Hushla, Musser, Neiman, Riggs, Shim, Weiss

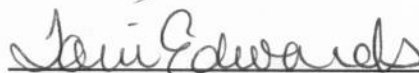
MOTION CARRIED (8-0)

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Approved on this 13 day of November, 2018.



Lorraine Koss, Chairperson



Torri Edwards, Board Secretary