



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susy Torriente – Vice Chair
Shana Carson
Michael Gilbrook
Ed Johnson
Kenneth Peach
Resham Shirsat

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Madeline Almodovar - Chair
Laura Betts
Christianah Oyenuga

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides - Sustainability & Resilience
Lori Forsman – Sustainability & Resilience
Greg Golgowski – Planning
Maria Cahill – Planning
Karen McGuire - Planning
Alissa Torres – Transportation Planning
Jacqueline Torbert – Utilities/Water
Marthaly Irizarry – Neighborhood Services
Daniel Kilponen - Neighborhood Services
Jane Gregory - EPD

Call to Order

After indicating that Chair Madeline Almodovar would not be in attendance, at 12:10 p.m., Vice Chair Torriente called the meeting to order. Noting that there was not a quorum in the room, it was stated that this would be an informational meeting with no formal approvals.

Public Comment

The Vice Chair asked for public comment. There were no members of the public attending virtually. Staff confirmed there was no written public comment submitted.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 22, 2021 meeting will be reviewed and approved at the June 24, 2021 meeting.

New Business & Discussion

Community Discussion Topic:

Marthaly Irizarry, Neighborhood Services Division, presented an overview of the Sustainable Neighborhood Grants program. The presentation featured, the guidelines, the types of projects, and the challenges to address. The aim of the grant is to empower communities to do small projects that will reduce pollution and their carbon footprint. The grant is open to all communities, HOAs, volunteer groups for a maximum amount of \$5000. Match funding may be required based on staff analysis of the project. Projects must serve public properties. Challenges reviewed included community awareness, grant focused on “wants” not “needs” in a community, and strict County insurance requirements which can be hindering. SAB members were asked to provide additional ideas for the grant. Suggestions included:

1. Improve community outreach through clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis. Some contacts available through SAB members.
2. Increase the grant funding to be available on a sliding scale as part of updated guidelines for small, medium, and large projects, some of which may require partnerships to secure enough funding.
3. Consider a pre-qualified list of vendors that can complete specific types of projects – not a typical approach for the County, and

4. Review the vendor insurance requirements the County has to see if they can be altered or updated to reflect these smaller types of projects.

Items for Review/Approval:

Lori Forsman, Sustainability Programs Manager, reviewed the intent for Orange County's pursuit of LEED for Cities and Communities certification. The presentation included the requirements of the application process, a comparison of other cities and counties that have completed certification, and an assessment of the prerequisites and credits being pursued. The timeline for the task was highlighted, beginning with the receipt of a grant funding the certification process, including a membership in a learning cohort designed to assist in the assessment and application process, and ending with application submittal planned for June 30, 2021. After submittal, staff will provide a follow-up presentation to review areas of opportunity for future re-certification, reflecting credits not pursued in this first application. A discussion about Central Florida Foundation's THRIVE initiative took place and the intent of the partnership there was clarified including the intent to help ensure that programs are assessed to see if funding provided has the impact intended.

Green Minute

Vice Chair Torriente allowed members to bring new discussion topics to the group for consideration. Ken Peach provided some additional information about AARP materials.

At 1:00 p.m., Michael Gilbrook left the meeting.

Old Business

SAB members reviewed a draft letter of recommendation to the BCC to encourage the creation of a Residential Backyard Composting Program. One addition to the letter was to indicate the understanding that there is section of the Orange County Code for composting and that compliance is important. It will be a partnership among residents and the County to ensure program success. Without a quorum, the SAB could not approve the final letter for signature. This letter will be updated and quickly reviewed at the June 24, 2021 meeting at which a vote for approval will be taken.

Monthly SORAP Staff Report

Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer gave a short verbal review of the monthly updates for the Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan.

Buildings & Infrastructure:

- Design guidelines updates have been slowed slightly but are still in process with contractor support.
- Utilities is pursuing renewable energy options with feasibility studies.
- Showcase project - Magnolia Park Eco-Tourism Center aiming for net-zero building
- Received an EnergyStar certification for one of our County buildings with five more buildings in the pipeline for certification. Staff has been trained to continue this effort.

Trees and Lands

- New acquisition in our environmentally sensitive lands program coming to the BCC soon.
- The next meeting will address Trees: tree canopy, tree ordinance, and residential tree planting.

Jeff also mentioned the creation of a report highlighting the status of the recommendations of the Mayor's Transition Team Report to be released soon. It was suggested to consider sharing percent completion data with each recommendation.

In-person versus virtual meetings were discussed. In-person quorum of five is required for an official meeting. If we do not have quorum, we will continue with an informational meeting. Meetings will continue to be available for staff and the public.

At 1:17 p.m., Vice Chair Torriente adjourned the meeting.

Materials for this meeting can be found at:

<https://ocfl.box.com/s/n5emt1h988sexavz2uw1hrlpsnizgrmg>

Sustainability Advisory Board Chair

Date

Prepared by Lori Forsman

DRAFT