

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES October 1, 2020

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present at 6:02 pm when the meeting commenced via GoToMeeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic: Paul Kragh, Chairperson, Bob Kirschbaum, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer, Janet Arculeo, Geraldine DeBianchi, Jackie Fisher, Diana Guidry, Jerilyn Habenicht, Lill Maniscalco, Jacque Sanchez, and student liaison Christopher Berry

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Steven Williamson, Public Works Director; Rob Nay, Public Works Operation Supervisor for Facilities; Jeanette Wofford, Cooper City Green Advisory Board Liaison; Linda Kragh, GAB Recording Secretary Emeritus to the Board

APPROVE THE MINUTES: Diana Guidry made a motion to approve the September 3, 2020 minutes as amended, Jackie Fisher seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Kirschbaum presented last year's budget. He mentioned that Mayor Greg Ross sent a letter to the Green Advisory Board Members thanking them for returning the \$497.45 that was not spent to the General Fund due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new Cooper City budget has been passed. The GAB budget for next year is \$1500.

OPENING REMARKS:

GUEST SPEAKER: Steven Williamson, Public Works Director and Rob Nay, Public Works Operation Supervisor for Facilities discussed the plans to upgrade the street lighting in Cooper City to LED lighting. There are 1679 residential lights that FPL will be upgrading, and 400 city owned lights that will be changed. The choices were the softer white or blue lighting. The Green Board will be sent two locations in Sunrise that use both types of lighting. The Public Works Department believes that the FPL upgrading project should be completed by September 2021. The City owned lights might take longer. This project will save \$8000 and will create less work for the Public Works department. The benefits will be lower costs and a reduction in light pollution which is better for wildlife and ecosystems. According to Steven Williamson, this project will reduce the same amount of carbon dioxide emissions that is emitted from 108 automobiles a year. Paul Kragh asked if the lights that are selected have the IDA's (International Dark Sky Association) Fixture Seal of Approval which would allow the city to promote this aspect of the new environmentally friendly lighting. Diana Guidry mentioned that proper lighting is important since Cooper City is in the Atlantic migratory bird flyway.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS: The 3 iguana traps, blankets and bait that was purchased for \$250 are being used at Jerry Morgan park. As of this meeting, Paul Kragh has captured 49 iguanas at this park in three weeks. The Amazon order giveaways for the Tree and Plant Care Workshop arrived. Hopefully, next year the GAB will be able to purchase educational signs for the parks in Cooper City. Christopher Berry, the President of the Cooper City High School Environment Club discussed the activities that the club is doing during the pandemic. They are having virtual meetings. Light Up Cooper City will not be the same as in

previous years due to the pandemic. The City will be putting up the lights in the City Hall park for the residents to enjoy.

OLD BUSINESS: Jeanette Wofford did a review of this year's virtual Tree and Plant Care Workshop. The workshop lasted from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The city residents had lots of questions and comments via chat. Jeanette asked the board members to send in their evaluations if they attended the workshop. The Yard of the Month program has been suspended until 2021. The Sustainability Plan will be revisited in January 2021.

MEMBER COMMENTS & CONCERNS: Diana Guidry would like to thank the city for planting 35 new swale trees. She was thankful to see a new swale tree on 49th Place since we lost so many in previous hurricanes. Paul Kragh mentioned that Project Perch is looking for a location for a Burrowing Owl Camera that has electricity and internet. Project Perch is working with a consultant to create a film on the Burrowing Owls in Broward County. The 6 pairs of artificial burrows at Rock Creek were all in use during the flooding of the area this year. Rock Creek had 40 owls and owlets during breeding season this year.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 6:00 PM at City Hall or via GoToMeeting depending on the COVID-19 reopening updates.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded by Diana Guidry and Jerilyn Habenicht, respectively, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. Minutes submitted by Linda Kragh, GAB Recording Secretary, Emeritus to the Board. The foregoing Minutes were approved by vote and signed by Paul Kragh Paul Kragh, Chairperson of the Green Advisory Board, on December 3, 2020.