

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES November 7, 2024

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present at 6:02 pm when the meeting commenced at the City of Cooper City Pool and Tennis Center meeting room: Paul Kragh, Chairperson, Bob Kirschbaum, Vice Chairperson and Treasurer, Janet Arculeo, Jackie Fisher, Jennifer Gross, Jerilyn Habenicht, Lill Maniscalco, Ileana Ryan, and Analia Exposito, Cooper City High School student liaison.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Diana Guidry and Jacque Sanchez

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn DeLand, Cooper City Green Advisory Board Liaison, and Linda Kragh, GAB Recording Secretary Emeritus to the Board.

APPROVE THE MINUTES: Jackie Fisher made a motion to approve the October 3, 2024 minutes as amended. Bob Kirschbaum seconded the motion. All board members voted for the approval of the minutes as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Kirschbaum reported that the Green Board has the same allocation as last year, \$2500.

GUEST SPEAKER:

PUBLIC INPUT: Paul Kragh says that Karen Wade will no longer be reporting on the Beautification Plan for the city as it has been approved by the city. Analia Exposito Cooper City high school liaison gave a report on the Cooper City High School environment club. The club is going to do a recycling project with the students to identify the products that can be recycled. Paul Kragh informed her that some businesses such as Best Buy recycle electronics and that the city has a Hazardous Waste collection date once a month at the Wheelabrator site 4400 S. State Road 7 Davie FL 33314-2100. The information is on the city's website. Analia said that the club will also be making recyclable bracelets to sell for environmental issues, and they are going to be making compostable pots for plants.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS: The National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch Pledge End-of-Year report for the 2024 pledge year was submitted by Dawn DeLand before the deadline which was December 1, 2024. Cooper City achieved the Leadership Circle for 2024. We will need to submit next years action items before March 31, 2025. The Green Advisory Board's action items for 2025 Pledge will be discussed at a future meeting. Paul Kragh believes completing the items we have been doing works well for the number of volunteers we have. Cooper City is also a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife habitat. This certification needs to be renewed each year. Community Wildlife Habitats garden and landscape with wildlife in mind, promote the use of native trees and plants, work to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and chemicals, and integrate wildlife-friendly practices into sustainability plans and park master plans. Cooper City was certified on 7/31/2017 and needs to be recertified each year by December 31. The goals of this program are listed at the following website: [NWF-Community-Wildlife-Habitat-Certification-Requirements.ashx](https://www.nwf.org/Community-Wildlife-Habitat-Certification-Requirements). Paul Kragh mentioned that the National Wildlife Federation has a Trees for Wildlife program. See: [Trees for Wildlife™](https://www.nwf.org/Trees-for-Wildlife) Local nurseries grow seedlings and can be reimbursed from the program. The dates for application will be November 15 – December 15. Paul Kragh says that Diana Guidry is going to find out how much a nursery will be reimbursed and reach out to Phil at Florida Nursery Mart to see if he will be interested in the program so the Green Board can give our seedlings at our various outreach events. There was a discussion of Light Up Cooper City and whether the Green Board should have a table. Paul Kragh felt that this event is more recreational and not educational, and the Green Board does not get environmental issues out to the city residents. The Board members discussed this event and Paul Kragh asked for a vote on how many Board members wanted to set up a table this year. The vote was 7 to 1 against setting up a table at Light Up Cooper City this year so Paul told Analia that we will not be needing students to help staff the booth. Paul asked Dawn to check with the new Utilities Director to see if Cooper City is contributing a donation to Broward Water Matters

Day on March 8, 2025. The Board members seemed interested in setting up a table at this educational environmental event instead of Founders Day which occurs on the same day. A Cooper City Elementary science teacher is interested in meeting with Green Advisory Board members to help with their Garden Club meetings. The dates she has available to meet are November 20, December 4, and December 18 at 7:30 in the morning. Ileana Ryan can meet with her on November 20. Paul Kragh can meet with her on December 4. Paul will check with other Board members to see if they can meet with her on December 18. Analia says that if they need supplies maybe she can get the high school students' environmental club involved. Paul Kragh passed around the color design selection for the Flamingo West bird sign. The Board members put a check by the background color they liked. The winning color was the light blue color on the selection. Next Jackie Fisher made a motion to spend up to \$500 on the Flamingo West Park bird sign and mounting supplies such as starboard and Janet Arculeo seconded the motion, and the Board Members approved the motion unanimously. Dawn Deland mentioned that a new mayor and commissioner are coming into office in January. She said that Jackie Fisher and Jerilyn Habenicht were appointed by Mayor Ross and Paul Kragh and Jackie Sanchez were appointed by Commissioner Green. Dawn suggested that these Board members contact the incoming leadership and let them know that the Board Members are still interested in volunteering for the Green Advisory Board. At this time, Jerilyn Habenicht who was on the Board for 17 years gave Dawn her resignation letter. Next the Election of officers was voted on. No other board members wanted to be Chair or Vice Chair for the coming year, Paul Kragh and Bob Kirschbaum were elected to keep the positions they currently hold.

OLD BUSINESS: There was much discussion about outreach events to volunteer to staff this coming year. The Board members felt that the Senior Expo was a worthy event to attend since they were able to speak to many seniors about environmental issues. Founders' Day and Light Up Cooper City were not as useful since the music was loud and residents seemed not to be interested in hearing about environmental issues at these events.

MEMBER COMMENTS & CONCERNS: Ileana Ryan asked about the Beautification of Palm Avenue. Paul Kragh says that the new manager is aware of the concerns of the public. The city cannot spend money on approving the area unless the landowners agree since it is not city property. Board members suggested that Ileana as a resident go before the commission meeting and ask how this issue is being addressed. Paul Kragh mentioned that Project Perch sent a proposal to Sun Credit Union about protecting the owls on their property on Stirling. He has not heard back from the CEO.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded by Lill Maniscalco and Jackie Fisher respectively, the Board members unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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, Chairperson of the Green Advisory Board, on _____, 2024.