

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES December 5, 2024

ATTENDANCE: The following Green Advisory Board members were present at 6:01 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, Diana Guidry, Lill Maniscalco, Ileana Ryan, and Jacque Sanchez.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Gross and Analia Exposito, Cooper City High School student liaison.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Jason Smith, Cooper City Commissioner, Dawn DeLand, Cooper City Green Advisory Board Liaison, Linda Kragh, GAB Recording Secretary Emeritus to the Board and Barbara Martinez-Guerrero, Dream in Green, Executive Director.

APPROVE THE MINUTES: Diana Guidry made a motion to approve the November 7, 2024 minutes as written. Lill Maniscalco seconded the motion. All board members voted for the approval of the minutes as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Kirschbaum reported that the Green Board has the same allocation as last year, \$2500, and no money had been spent as of today.

GUEST SPEAKER: Barbara Martinez-Guerrero, the Executive Director of Dream in Green gave a presentation about her organization. Dream in Green has been promoting environmental sustainability since 2006. They have a history of educating, empowering & promoting sustainable practices in schools, homes & communities. One of their projects was targeting energy and water consumption at the schools in Miami-Dade County. They challenged the schools to save on energy so that the money they saved could be used for other improvements in the schools. Their main focus is Pre-K through 12 grades. This organization is in Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe and now Palm Beach Counties and has an 18-year history. They have 3 pillars of success: Reduce environmental impacts and costs, Improve occupants health and performance, and Increase sustainability and environmental literacy. They promote behavioral changes in schools with environmental education. They also have a 45-minute presentation called WE-LAB for adults about water energy learning and behavior. She talked about saltwater intrusion in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Her organization is a Green leader for grants for schools.

PUBLIC INPUT: Jason Smith, the new Cooper City Commissioner, attended the meeting. He introduced himself to the board members and they introduced themselves to him. Analia Exposito Cooper City high school liaison was not in attendance, so the Board did not get a report of the activities of the school.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS: Paul Kragh brought up the January meeting date which is January 2, 2025. He checked to make sure the meeting would have a quorum. All board members but one or two would be able to attend on this date. Next the board discussed Water Matters Day. Paul asked Diana Guidry to meet with Tim Welch, Utilities Director to discuss Cooper City having a booth at Water Matters Day on March 8, 2025. The board members wish to have an exhibit booth at this event this year since they have not attended this event for a number of years. Next the board members discussed the National Wildlife Federation Trees for Wildlife program. The grant must be applied for by December 15, 2024. Diana Guidry is trying to get Phil from Florida Nursery Mart to grow the trees. The trees must be sourced from a local grower. Jackie Fisher made a motion to apply for this grant. Janet Arculeo seconded the motion and the board members unanimously agreed. The grant only allows for a \$1 reimbursement for the seedlings, but the board agreed to cover the remaining cost of 100 tree seedlings. The board members are going to give out the trees at the Cooper City Tree and Plant Care Workshop. Paul asked Dawn DeLand to check on the Cooper City/Coastal Academic Scholarship program. He wants her to send out the rubric for scoring the applications. The board believes the students need to list their community service hours, but the 40 hours do not need to be on the application requirements since all students need these hours to

graduate. If they do not graduate, they cannot get the scholarship anyway. The board members discussed the giveaways for Cooper City Senior Expo. They thought bamboo forks, spoons and straws would be good giveaways. Also, they want to give away milkweed seeds so they can reach one of the goals of the NWF Mayors' Monarch Pledge. They felt the NWF seedlings would not be ready for the Senior Expo. Ileana Ryan discussed what the Cooper City Elementary School Garden Club needs. They need supplies such as grow bags and adult volunteer help with the students. Jacque Sanchez suggested they apply for a grant for Harbor Freight Tools to get gardening tools for the students. The Butterfly garden at the school where Dr Scuderi's memorial is located needs some work. The school also wants to plant vegetables after the holidays. Grow bags would work for the planting. Diana Guidry made a motion to spend \$200 in supplies and plants for the school. Jacque Sanchez seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously. Paul mentioned that there is an opening on the Green Advisory Board since Jerilyn Habenicht resigned. Mayor Curran would need to appoint the member. If any Board member has someone who might be interested in the appointment, they should complete the Citizen Resource application at the following address: [Advisory Boards and Committees \(Meeting Agendas & Minutes\) - Cooper City, FL](#)

OLD BUSINESS: The Flamingo West Park bird sign is going to be ready next week. Marc from Quick Time Signs says he finally got the materials in, and he will be able to complete the sign by next week. Then Paul will go retrieve the starboard for the backing and Public Works will be able to install the sign. A few members of the Board volunteered to go weed and trim the Butterfly Garden at the Pool and Tennis Center on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Dawn Deland said she completed the NWF Community Wildlife Federation re-certification, and it has been approved.

MEMBER COMMENTS & CONCERNS: Project Perch and Pelican Harbor Seabird Station are teaming up with Jeff Corwin to film Florida Burrowing owls for one of their episodes. Diana Guidry thought the board could check on the price of the butterfly sign, maybe the board could install more of these signs at some of the schools that have butterfly gardens.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded by Lill Maniscalco and Jackie Fisher respectively, the Board members unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 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 January 2,
2025.