



**City of Palm Coast
Minutes
Beautification and
Environmental Advisory
Committee**

City Hall
160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, FL 32164
www.palmcoastgov.com

*Chair Mary Vasilevsky
Committee Member Kevin Saint
Committee Member Ronald Silvers
Committee Member Robert Branin*

Thursday, December 1, 2022

5:00 PM

City Hall - Community Wing

- Public Participation shall be in accordance with Section 286.0114 Florida Statutes.
- Public comment on issues on the agenda or public participation shall be limited to 3 minutes.
- Other matters of concern may be discussed as determined by Committee during the meeting.
- If you wish to obtain more information regarding the agenda, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 386-986-3713.
- In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in any of these proceedings or meeting should contact the City Clerk at 386-986-3713, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
- It is proper meeting etiquette to silence all electronic devices, including cell phones while meeting is in session.
- The City of Palm Coast is not responsible for any mechanical failure of recording equipment.
- Any person who decides to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, may need to hire a court reporter to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

A CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Vasilevsky called the Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC) meeting to order at 5:05pm.

B ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Present and responding to roll call were:

*Chair Vasilevsky
Mr. Branin
Mr. Saint
Mr. Silvers*

C ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

1 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR TO THE BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Saint nominated himself and Mr. Silvers seconded, the motion carried.

Pass

Motion made to approve by Committee Member Saint and seconded by Committee Member Silvers

Approved - 4 - Chair Mary Vasilevsky, Committee Member Ronald Silvers, Committee Member Robert Branin, Committee Member Kevin Saint

D APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

2 MEETING MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Pass

Motion made to approve as presented made by Committee Member Saint and seconded by Committee Member Branin

Approved - 4 - Chair Mary Vasilevsky, Committee Member Ronald Silvers, Committee Member Robert Branin, Committee Member Kevin Saint

E STAFF BUSINESS MEETING ITEMS

3 DISCUSSION OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM

Ms. Jordan Myers, CFM, Environmental Planner, gave an update on a document that was sent to the BEAC members to review regarding the City's plan to update the Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 6. Ms. Myers stated that at this time you are encouraged to review the information provided however the BEAC will not be part of the review until the review is open to the public in the next few months.

Ms. Myers gave a history of the review of the City's green building program which was initiated with a prior BEAC group along with her opinion of how the program may be revamped.

Chair Vasilevsky gave an update of her personal experience working with the City's current Green Building Incentive which has not been very positive. She discussed the updates to the City of Palm Coast website regarding a "Water Star" home. She also discussed her prior conversations with Ms. Barbie Bemby, Permit Supervisor, and the \$10,000 annual budget for this program. Chair Vasilevsky discussed the problems with the City's website and the issues with the requirement to identify the project as a green building at the time of permit submittal. The Chair also identified delays in the FL Green Building

Coalition issuing the green building certificates that one needs to claim the reimbursement from the City's green building program.

Mr. Silvers asked if the City's permitting portal had been updated to accept the "green building" check box. Chair Vasilevsky stated that it hasn't been updated yet. She stated that the City has not paid their Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) dues due to an oversight by the City.

Vice Chair Saint discussed his prior experience researching the City's plan for revamping the Green Building Incentive and asked Chair Vasilevsky her opinion of the best program to offer through the City. She stated that her opinion is FCBG.

Chair Vasilevsky discussed rebranding the program as the City Sustainability Program and it would include looking at retrofitting existing homes as well as incentives for new green construction. Discussion of the process to increase the \$10,000 amount ensued. Ms. Myers stated any increase would require approval from the City Council. Other incentives were discussed including non-monitory awards. Discussion of non-monitory awards included coalition with other non-profits, grants, partnerships that involve education specially designed for the City's youth. Vice Chair Saint also mentioned a \$20,000 grant that Flagler Palm Coast High School (FPCHS) received for a community garden. Discussion took place of expanding the Green Building Program to a more holistic approach which would include other areas other than green construction.

Ms. Myers summarized the next steps would be focusing on whether the BEAC wants to update the Green Building Incentive Program or focus on something new. Vice Chair Saint suggested he was in favor of focusing on something new. Ms. Myers asked Ms. Schaefer, Recording Secretary, her opinion about the process involved in creating a new City Sustainability Program. Ms. Schaefer referred to the revisions made to Chapter 11 - Landscape Code of the Land Development Code and the use of public meeting workshops to solicit input from the public on suggested updates/changes to the code. The public was encouraged to comment on the City's website and/or call in and voice their comments to City staff. She suggested the next steps would be obtaining an outline of suggested changes and these would be emailed to Ms. Schaefer ahead of the January 26th meeting and compiled by her for discussion during that meeting. The BEAC members were asked to please submit all suggestions to Ms. Schaefer by January 16th. Ms. Myers asked the BEAC members to review the 3 existing Green Building Incentive Program Ordinances prior to the next meeting and include in their outline suggestions any changes to these Ordinances as well.

Vice Chair Saint and Chair Vasilevsky recapped the outline homework is to look at the Green Building Incentive Program and with a focus to improve it by expanding its reach through education, partnership, grants, etc. It may include improvements to aid in the quality of life (air quality, etc.).

Chair Vasilevsky opened this item to public comment at 5:54pm.

Ms. Tiffany Islam, Flagler County Emergency Operations Center, suggested broadening the program's outreach to include local vendors (i.e., big box

companies: Home Depot). She suggested reviewing the existing Green Building Program by identifying what you do like and what you don't like otherwise it becomes a very daunting task to rebuild the program from scratch. She suggested using social networks to advertise our proposed workshops.

Chair Vasilevsky closed this item to public comment at 5:57pm.

The committee members discussed Ms. Islam's comments including use of social media and the promotion of the City's green programs as well as discussed details found on Orange County's incentive website.

Vice Chair Saint spoke to his experience about FPCHS sustainability survey as it relates to promoting the City's Green Building Incentive, his experience is that his students were unaware of any existing program and the public was very suspicious of the use of certain terms around resiliency, green, etc. Discussion ensued of the impact of certain terms associated with resiliency and sustainability terms and whether the proposed new program continues with these terms or not.

Chair Vasilevsky stated that she would share information from other municipalities to Ms. Schaefer who will forward onto the members.

Ms. Islam addressed the BEAC members about the Northeast Central Florida Regional Planning Council and their planned meeting on December 6th to form a new resiliency committee.

Received and Filed

F COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND STAFF ISSUES

Discussion of the schedule of the 2023 BEAC meeting, which will be held on the 4th Thursday of each month January – October. There is no meeting in November and the December meeting will be held on December 7, 2023.

G ADJOURNMENT

Motion made that the meeting be adjourned by Mr. Silvers and the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Saint. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by:
Irene Schaefer, Recording Secretary*