

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF CLEARWATER**

January 18, 2017

DRAFT

Present: Chair Leann J. DuPont, Board Member Michael Engelmann, Board Member Jared Leone, Board Member Ashley Wilson Pimley

Absent: Board Member Mark Wright

Also Present: Laura Mahony – Assistant City Attorney, Ed Chesney – Environmental Manager, Patricia O. Sullivan – Board Reporter

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall and reported the City Manager had complimented the EAB's (Environmental Advisory Board's) November 17, 2106 City Council presentation. She congratulated Board Members and Environmental Manager Ed Chesney for their efforts.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2 – Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approve minutes of the October 19, 2016 Environmental Advisory Board meeting as submitted in written summation.

Member Engelmann moved to approve minutes of the October 19, 2016 Environmental Advisory Board meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3 – Citizens to be Heard re Items Not on the Agenda: None.

4 – New Business

4.1 [ID#17-3177](#) Moccasin Lake Park Update - Felicia Donnelly

Administrative Support Manager Felicia Donnelly discussed the 10-year 2013 Moccasin Lake Nature Park Master Plan, which was projected to be completed in 5 years. She distributed a handout and reviewed plan accomplishments. The agreement with the Audubon Society to run the park's Bird of Prey operation will be submitted to the City Council for approval. A Sanitary sewer lift station will be installed and new restrooms will be constructed north of the classroom. An increase in offsite Stormwater flow made replacing the washed out bridge in the same location difficult; a new location by the stormwater weir was identified and the bridge and connecting boardwalks were redesigned. Boardwalks required replacement. Construction awaited final review and permits.

Ms. Donnelly said Interpretive Center exhibits were damaged by humidity and needed to be revamped; HVAC and kitchen equipment will be installed in the center. A nature based environmental play area will be designed to teach children about the environment. The City was doing a robust job promoting Moccasin Lake Nature Park: 1) 7 written reports sent to Friends of Moccasin Lake Nature Park and stakeholder groups; 2) 12 presentations at public forums; 3) park information and events posted on the City's website, TBO.com, Tampa Bay.com,

Facebook, and environmental websites; 4) park listed in every environmental publication; and 5) Allegiant Airlines' current in-flight magazine article featured Moccasin Lake Nature Park.

Ms. Donnelly was complimented for staff efforts. It was noted Moccasin Lake Nature Park will be the most technologically advanced park in the City. Ms. Donnelly said the Aging Well Center's manager had insisted that a hearing loop be installed; Clearwater had the country's second oldest population. She recognized 37-year staff member Cliff Norris, the Environment Land Supervisor who oversaw Moccasin Lake Nature Park and its programs.

One resident complimented Moccasin Lake Nature Park and offered to volunteer.

Ms. Donnelly said every City summer camp participant visited Moccasin Lake Nature Park. For a fee, the park was available for corporate activities, weddings, birthday parties, etc.

4.2 ID#17-3178 EAB Campaign for Single Use Plastic - EAB Members

It was reported Thomas Pererek, Chair of the Suncoast Chapter of the Surfrider's Foundation had invited the Chamber of Commerce to the organization's March 7, 2017 meeting on single-use plastic at Chapel by the Sea. It was stated the Clearwater Beach Association also will be contacted.

Discussion ensued with a recommendation that the EAB schedule a workshop after the meeting to develop a presentation for the City Council and comments: 1) Council, Chambers of Commerce, and business owner support was necessary for a voluntary program limiting single-use plastic at beach restaurants and cafés to succeed; 2) it was important that business owners were made aware that this issue was important to residents; 3) environmental protection had diverse support; and 4) straws on the beach was part of a much bigger problem related to deteriorating micro plastics introducing carcinogens into the food chain.

Assistant City Attorney Lauren Mahony said she and Mr. Chesney would discuss how best to accomplish the request for a workshop and report to members. Mr. Chesney will provide members with contact information for the Beach Chamber in an effort to send information to hoteliers and restaurateurs.

4.3 ID#17-3179 Report on Indian Rocks Beach Meeting - Leann DuPont

Chair DuPont said the major discussion at the Indian Rocks Beach meeting focused on the CCCL (Coastal Construction Control Line) and protecting dunes. Mr. Chesney reviewed past dune protection efforts on north beach and the annual volunteer program that plants 10,000 sea oats in the county's dune system. It was recommended that steps be taken to stop people from walking on Clearwater's dunes.

A resident recommended installing small educational signs for tourists that identify flora and explain why dunes should not be disturbed.

4.4 ID#17-3180 Elect Chair / Vice Chair 2017-2018

Member Engelmann moved to reappoint Leann DuPont as Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Member Engelmann moved to appoint Jared Leone as Vice Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5 – Old Business

5.1 [ID#17-3181](#) Mooring Field Update, Mandalay Channel - Ed Chesney

Mr. Chesney said the application for a mooring field in Mandalay Channel had been resubmitted to reduce the number of moored vessels from 42 to 4; vessels could be up to 70-feet in length. The applicant owned a large swath of bottom land. The application indicated dinghies from moored vessels would use the Cove Apartments' dock; currently, only owners of the 5 units at the motel were permitted to use the dock. Army Corps of Engineers and FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) review of the modified application will be publicly noticed. The deadline for public comment to the Army Corps was February 17, 2017; staff will send a link to members. The application was not submitted to Pinellas County or Clearwater.

Concern was expressed FDEP had approved the original application without proof of upland support or sanitary waste disposal. It was stated the application should identify the maximum number of people the mooring field would serve.

A resident said the Bay Esplanade Mooring Field submission indicated the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center and Clearwater Beach Marina would provide restroom facilities for moored vessels.

6 – Director's Report

6.1 [ID#17-3182](#) Agenda for April 19, 2017 Meeting

7 – Board Members to be Heard

In response to a question, Mr. Chesney said the City had awarded a contract for design work for a master plan re City purchased wetlands in Cooper's Bayou; the plan will take a year to develop. The Clearwater Christian College uplands property was sold.

8 – Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Chair
Environmental Advisory Board

Attest:

Board Reporter