



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Draft Vegetation Committee

Thursday, May 1, 2025

1:30 PM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 1:31 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wyskowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Chair Barb Wyskowski, Committee Member Barbara Boyce, Committee Member Barbara Horvath, Committee Member Ruth Brooks, Vice Chair Pamela Miller and Committee Member Vincent Simonelli

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

All Committee Members were present.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Boyce moved, seconded by Vice Chair Miller, to adopt the April 3, 2025, meeting minutes.

5. Public Comment

Chet Sadler - Complimented the Vegetation Committee on a job well done. Mr. Sadler voiced his concerns regarding the dead vegetation particularly around the West Gulf area but all along the island as well. Mr. Sadler spoke to the Vegetation Committee implementing a policy or plan for the dead vegetation. Mr. Sadler suggested an idea of mulching dead vegetation similar to what Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) is currently doing.

6. Presentations

Evapotranspiration Program - Mark Thompson, SCCF

Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt introduced Mark Thompson from SCCF.

Mark Thompson from SCCF provided a Powerpoint Presentation providing the process of evapotranspiration and informational items of evapotranspiration.

Mr. Thompson provided examples of how vegetation was on Sanibel prior to Hurricane Ian to the current vegetation state on Sanibel.

Mr. Thompson produced websites and link in the presentation to help with findings of what trees help with water absorption.

Public Comment:

Barbara Wyskowski - Inquired if all ground covers, grass specifically Spartina Grass, and all over bushes are also engaging in evapotranspiration.

Rachel Rainbolt - Inquired about woody vegetation.

Janet McLaughlin - Neligiabie Spartise compared to trees. Mr. Thompson spoke to grasslands and how some trees better suited than others. Less dense trees hold more waters but evaptranspate more water. Unsure of where buttonwood fall, more dense or less dense.

Frances Todd- Following up on dense or less dense, providing a list of what trees are best suited. Mr. Thompson responded with the right tree for that location. Mr. Thompson spoke to the Tomato theory and the papya tree having the same theory as the tomato theory.

Chet Sadler- Touched on the history of Sanibel prior to people, pictures he's seen do not have many trees if fact none, the island was woody and inquired if that was a bad thing. Mr. Thompson responded that barrier islands change, when it first started it was a sandbar then vegetation arrived evolution of the island, more vegetation more and soil changes in vegetation. Natural evolution of a barrier island. Amount of soil and height of soil changes. Studies all along the world woody stubby vegetation. Woody vegetation can use CO2 more efficiently than grass. Discussion ensued regarding Sampling methods from the well, Mr. Sadler requested more information.

7. Old Business

a. Native Plant Walk Reports

Committee Member Brooks provided a brief overview of the Native Plant Walk participation for the month of March.

Wednesday - Committee Member Brooks was unable to attend, Committee Member Boyce and Committee Member Horvath covered the Native Plant Walk, there were no participants.

Saturday - Three (3) participants in addition to Chair Wyskowski.

Discussion ensued regarding free pamphlets that were offered from the Florida Native Plant Society. Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt spoke to the

pamphlets that are utilized for the Native Plant Walks being digitized with a QR code in hope to reduce paper usage.

8. Reports

a. Natural Resources Liaison Report

Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt spoke to the Master Gardening watering schedule ending next month, inquired if anyone from the committee would volunteer twice a week to cover the watering schedule. If any Committee Member is interested in volunteering, she asked they email her directly.

Ms. Rainbolt informed the committee that SCCF came to City Hall for earth week and planted black and white mangroves.

b. Chairperson's Report

Chair Wyskowski asked the committee for suggested guest speakers for community involvement and to email drafted native plant articles from last meeting to email them to Rachel Rainbolt.

Committee inquired about the old articles and what are happening with those. Ms. Rainbolt responded the city is switching to a new website that allows department more creative space.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of Native Plant Walks during the summer and the new raingarden plantings at SCCF.

c. Committee Member Reports

Committee Member Horvath spoke to Agamas Lizard being an invasive species and it is recommended you notify Florid Fish and Wildlife for tracking purposes.

Committee Member Boyce inquired about the 5,000 white egrets located at the Dayton Preserve and what their food source would be.

9. Next Meeting Date

a. Thursday, June 5, 2025 at Mackenzie Hall

10. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

11. Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 P.M.