



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Final Vegetation Committee

Thursday, June 6, 2024

1:30 PM

BIG ARTS - 900 Dunlop Road

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 1:36 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Boyce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Chairperson Barbara Boyce, Vice Chair Mariana Pardo, Committee Member Claudia Hoffinan, Committee Member Barbara Horvath, Committee Member Pamela Miller, Committee Member Vincent Simonelli and Committee Member Barb Wyskowski

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Ruth Brooks

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

All members were in attendance.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the April 4, 2024 meeting minutes

Brief discussion ensued regarding a scrivener's error on page 2 under New Business 7.(a.) and the word Committee Member vs. Committeemember.

Committeemember Pardo moved, seconded by Committeemember Miller to adopt the April 4 meeting minutes with corrections to page 2 item 7(a.). The motion carried.

Absent: 1 - Committeemember Ruth Brooks

b. Adoption of the May 2, 2024 meeting minutes

Brief discussion ensued regarding the Ganaderma conversation, noting that Ganaderma infections were potentially exacerbated by the storm. Ms. Pardo spoke to working with the Natural Resources Department on the Native Palm Article which will be brought back at the Committee's next meeting.

Discussion continued regarding conversations at the May meeting. Ms. Hoffman clarified that vegetation issues now are different from the vegetation issues that the

Committee would have addressed 50 years ago, due to climate change and other factors. She spoke additionally to a potential project related to adding shade at the Recreation Center Parking lot by planting trees or overall landscaping the lot.

Deputy Clerk Hicks spoke to conversations from the previous meeting where the Committee came to consensus to bring historical information forward for potentially later bringing forward to the 50th Anniversary Task-Force.

Committeemember Miller moved, seconded by Committeemember Horvath to adopt the May 2, 2024 meeting minutes with corrections to Committeemember Comments. The motion carried.

Absent: 1 - Committeemember Ruth Brooks

5. Public Comment

None at this time.

6. Old Business

a. Vegetation Committee Article - Going Native After Ian - Beautifully!

Chair Boyce spoke to two other articles in the works: Native Palms and Coconut Palms.

Ms. Pardo spoke to working with the City's Natural Resources Department regarding the Native Palm article as the Coconut Palm article had been tabled for now.

Discussion ensued regarding the Coconut Palm information potentially being added to a different already published article.

7. Reports

a. Natural Resources Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Rainbolt reported on the Departmental relocation , noting that the whole department moved offices into the what was formerly known as the Finance Department. Ms. Rainbolt reported during the move, Plant Walk signage for City Hall was located. Committee members were encouraged to reach out to the Department to schedule a time to re-install the signs with their proper plantings at City Hall.

Discussion ensued regarding an email received by Chair Boyce pertaining to an opinion piece submitted to the Island Reporter regarding Bronzing Disease. The membership noted talking with Dr. Steve Brown to have a look at the infected trees. Ms. Rainbolt spoke to other reasons why this phenomenon might be occurring like other diseases or salt intrusion.

The Committee sought direction on response, Ms. Rainbolt spoke to J.N. 'Ding' Darling Wildlife Refuge reported hiring specialists to treat infected trees. She

additionally reported that prescribed fire season is approaching and that infected trees are being removed to prevent prolific fires.

b. Chairperson's Report

Chair Boyce thanked Ms. Rainbolt, and noted her dislike with the way the article was written due to it being suggestive that the department and committee are not working hard enough on the issue.

Discussion ensued regarding vines taking over cabbage palms in various locations on the island. Ms. Rainbolt noted the dead trees located near Tarpon Bay Road would soon be removed and that some of the areas the committee discussed are lands owned by Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation where the dead trees would be the foundations responsibility.

c. Committeemember Reports

Committee members questioned the process for providing historical information to 50th Task-Force related to the Vegetation Committee and how to bring information forward.

Brief discussion ensued regarding process, Ms. Rainbolt and Ms. Hicks spoke to providing historical Committee information to staff, who will provide to committee members at next meeting. Additional discussion ensued regarding brining a speaker from the Resiliency Task Force. Ms. Rainbolt spoke to the membership making the arrangements for the speaker.

Discussion continued regarding information to bring forward to the 50th Anniversary Task Force.

Committee member Hoffman spoke to a potential recommendation to City Council for using the Recreation Center as a demonstration garden. Ms. Rachel reported the parking lot is owned by the Sanibel School District. Discussion continued regarding a new location for the potential pilot program.

Committee member Pardo reported being approved for a Grant with the Florida Wildflower Foundation related to plantings at Sanibel City Hall. She noted keeping all informed and that paperwork is in progress at this time.

8. Next Meeting Date

- a.** Thursday, June 6, 2024 at BIG ARTS

9. Public Comment

None at this time.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.