



Meeting Minutes - Draft Vegetation Committee

Thursday, July 6, 2023

1:30 PM

BIG ARTS - 900 Dunlop Rd

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 1:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Boyce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Barbara Boyce, Walter Cheatham III, Edward Holden, Barbara Horvath, Pamela Miller, Mariana Pardo and Phyllis Gresham

Absent: 2 - Claudia Hoffman and Ruth Brooks

a. Motion to excuse absent Committeemember(s):

Committeemember Horvath moved, seconded by Committee member Holden to excuse absent members: Hoffman and Brooks. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Claudia Hoffman and Committeemember Ruth Brooks

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the June 1, 2023 meeting minutes

Committee member Horvath moved, seconded by Committee member Holden to adopt the June 7th Vegetation Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Claudia Hoffman and Committeemember Ruth Brooks

5. Old Business

a. Vegetation Articles to Publish

Discussions ensued regarding edits to the articles, which pictures to include, and the City's pilot project related to ground covers.

Ms. Rainbolt spoke to bringing the ground cover plant types back at the next meeting as Staff was still in the planning stages of the program.

Discussion continued regarding edits to the beach dune articles. The Committee

approved for release by consensus.

b. Outreach Education Efforts

Committeemember Boyce spoke to conversations with Melissa from Island Management who further suggested to provide a letter on City letterhead offering to meet with each property.

Discussions ensued regarding the methods for delivery to Home Owner Association board members. Ms. Boyce noted discussions with Melissa indicated that some associations are ready for this type of information while others are farther behind in their recovery efforts.

Additional discussion continued regarding inclusion of services and acts by the Committee. Listing the options for the vegetation committee to assist with focus on education and identification.

The committee reached consensus to have the current letter on City letterhead and have the Committee sign the letter.

Committeemember Cheatham spoke to the successes of meeting with Recreation Staff and the School. How both entities are looking for more volunteers to assist with plantings as well as needing plant donations. Both the After School Program and Recreation Summer Camp are creating an intellectual pathway between the Sanibel Recreation Center and the Sanibel School.

Discussion ensued regarding design, which Mr. Cheatham noted the group is utilizing tires to make individual gardens. Some of which have incorporated edibles and native plants. The Committee further spoke to planting in wet areas as well as the potential to teach about pollinators in the process.

Discussion continued regarding next steps, which would be gathering input for volunteers, avid gardeners and other interested parties.

Ms. Rainbolt reported holding plant walks with the Sanibel Recreation Summer Camp children where they went over wildflower identification and the Recreation Center parking lot plants.

c. Vegetation Competency Licensing

Ms. Rainbolt reported on the legislative session, stating in the last week of June Governor DeSantis signed a bill extending provisions to occupational licensing through 2024. She added that there is still more time to draft a community driven effort to comply with Sanibel's vegetative standards and that the only competency that was not effected by new legislation is the mangrove trimming professionals.

Discussion ensued regarding the fertilizer courses, which Ms. Rainbolt noted the effects to these processes as well and further noted the time to draft a more community driven initiative, with the caveat the City could not have an endorsement program but alternatively could provide incentives to those that comply with Sanibel standards.

6. Public Comment

There were no public in the audience at this time.

7. Reports

a. Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Rainbolt noted Natural Resource Department's work related to the ground cover pilot program.

b. Committee Comments

Committeemember Pardo spoke to a previous meeting with the Realtors Association, the Department of Natural Resources was invited as a guest speaker, gave presentation on best standards and basic maintenance standards. CommitteememberPardo suggested providing the plant packet and adding information for potential buyers, would be great to give plant walk packet as well.

Committeemember Cheatham noted the two courses provided by Florida Gulf Coast University on edible and native plants. Adding that this could be a good resource for residents and the group to help educate residents who are looking to re-landscape.

Committeemember Gresham spoke to the local Real Estate Summit and how presentations at this event could be rather successful. Further adding that the Community House landscaping used to be a good example pre-storm.

Discussion ensued regarding demonstration gardens as well as educational offers by various entitles both public and private. Looking at homes with well landscaped lawns and gardens. Similar to a "Peek at the Unique" event, where an open airtour bus takes a small group around the island to look at the various landscaping. Incorporating this into outreach and encouraging residents to win awards for following the standards.

8. Next Meeting Date

a. Thursday, August 3, 2023

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.