



Meeting Minutes - Draft
Vegetation Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2024

1:30 PM

BIG ARTS - 900 Dunlop Road

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 1:37 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Boyce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Barbara Boyce, Barbara Horvath, Pamela Miller, Vincent Simonelli and Barb Wyskowski

Absent: 2 - Mariana Pardo and Claudia Hoffman

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

Committeemember Miller moved, seconded by Committeemember Horvath to excuse absent members: Hoffman and Pardo. The motion carried.

Excused: 2 - Committeemember Mariana Pardo and Committeemember Claudia Hoffman

4. Consent Agenda

a. ~~Adoption of the April 4, 2024 meeting minutes (Information to come) (Removed at Staff request - Supplement 1)~~

This item was removed at Staff's request due to difficulties with audio processing. The issue is scheduled to be repaired and the minutes will be brought back at a subsequent meeting.

5. Public Comment

None at this time.

6. Old Business

a. Vegetation Committee Articles

Committeemember Hoffman joined the meeting at 1:44 PM.

Committee members briefly discussed the drafted order of the article for beach

plantings.

The Committee then discussed the Palm Tree article. Ms. Holly Milbrandt, Director of Natural Resources, first spoke in regards to the article series from the Vegetation committee being a tool for the committee to disperse information related to Sanibel standards for vegetation. She noted how the article could focus on native palm trees to draw less attention to the controversial Coconut Palm tree.

Discussions continued regarding the Beach Dune Planting article, splitting the article into sections of the dune and recommending what plants to plant in each section of the Dune.

The Committee discussed referencing the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) in respect to proper plantings. However it was expressed that the intention of the article was to suggest what plants to use, not necessarily where in the dune to plant due to the various rules that would apply to different properties depending on location on the island. Discussion continued regarding the purpose of the plants, like erosion, and washout for inclusion in the article. The Committee expressed how this article could be supplemental to Article 13 regarding Beach Zone Planting.

The Committee contemplated removing the requirements for a Sanibel Landscaping competency card, Ms. Rainbolt suggested stating that landscapers must follow all Sanibel vegetative standards in lieu of the card statement. The Committee continued with discussions regarding photos, attracting readers with landscaped photos, using photos with only natives vs. non-competing exotics, as well as including plantings suggested per ecozone.

Committeemember Simonelli moved, seconded by Chair Boyce to table the Palm Tree article. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Mariana Pardo

b. Native Plant Walk Schedule

Chair Boyce reported on the last Plant Walk of the season:

- only a few attendees
- mostly requesting landscaping ideas like privacy hedges and ground covers

Chair Boyce noted a participant had unintentionally landscaped for seasons when they are not here, and suggested natives that produce flowers and color in the winter months when the property owners are down from their northern home.

The Committee concurred to assign Plant Walk Liaisons later in the year closer to the start up of the 2025 Plant Walk Season in December.

c. ~~Yard Recognition Program~~ (Removed at Staff request - Supplement 1)

This item was removed at request of Staff.

d. Environmental Reference Handbook

Director Milbrandt spoke to the Environmental Handbook and the need for departmental review prior to publishing after the storm. The current version being available on the City's website with the caveat that the book needs a full update after the impact from Hurricane Ian.

7. Reports

a. Natural Resources Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Rainbolt had no additional report.

b. Chairperson's Report

Chair Boyce brought up issues with Ganoderma in Gumbo Limbo. Ms. Rainbolt spoke to receiving permits for removal of certain trees, and that staff is looking to evaluate.

Discussion ensued regarding the effects of Gumbo Limbos after the storm, particularly the effects of Ganoderma. The committee expressed concerns for standards stating a tree must be replaced, Ganoderma being prolific enough to re-infect a new tree planted in its place. Director Milbrandt suggested a different species of tree be planted in this area.

c. Committeemember Reports

Committee member Hoffman spoke in regards to the 50th anniversary of the City and the Vegetation Committee being the first established by the first Sanibel City Council. Comparing and contrasting the duties of the Committee from then and now. She noted that early settlers to Sanibel suggested planting Brazilian Pepper due to it's beauty at Christmas time.

Ms. Hoffman additionally brought up ideas for planting at the Sanibel Recreation Center to provide more shade for parked vehicles. Presenting it as an educational opportunity for the Community. Discussion ensued regarding funding opportunities and the budget for such idea.

The Committee agreed to provide the 50th Anniversary Committee with historical establishing legislation and minutes from first meetings of the Vegetation Committee.

8. Next Meeting Date

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

9. Public Comment

No public were in attendance at this time.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.