



# City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Vegetation Committee

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Thursday, November 6, 2025

1:30 PM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

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### 1. Call to Order

The meeting convened at 1:30 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 Committee Member(s):

All Committee Members were present.

### 4. Consent Agenda

#### a. Adoption of the October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Miller moved, seconded by Committee Member Boyce to adopt the October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes with scriveners errors. The motion carried.

### 5. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

### 6. Program

#### a. How to Start a Backyard Revolution - Sara Burke, Florida Wildflower Foundation

Chair Wyskowski introduced Sarah Burke from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Ms. Burke provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding Hurricane recovery and invasive plants. Ms. Burke spoke to how to start a backyard revolution and resources available to utilize.

Public Comment:

Nancy Gurney - Inquired about what kind of native plants that will survive in our failing soil of Sanibel, uncertain of current recommendations but the list has been updated since Hurricane Ian. Research has begun of Salt tolerant soil.

Bill Montez - Spoke to composting. Composting is a public service but on Sanibel it is not. A well managed compost garden should not smell or bring in rodents. Common for Code Enforcement to get called. Ms. Burke responded and gave recommendations and tips on composting and spoke to a small compost compared to a larger compost.

Frank Williams - Inquired about Worms. Ms. Burke spoke to worms are being positive insect in your garden.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Guest Speaker Schedule**

December - Frances Tutt, Vegetable growing on island.

January - University of Florida, uncovering the reasoning's for tree deaths.

February - City Planner Kim Ruiz, living shoreline project.

Chair Wyskowski spoke to someone in line for tree maintenance.

Vincent Simonelli spoke to Chris Comer who works for Joshua Tree potential speaker, certified Arbor, in March.

### **b. 2025-2026 Native Plant Walk Schedule**

Confirmed second Wednesday and 4th Saturday from December - March at 9 A.M.

Committee had an extra Plant Walk on Arbor Day last year Ms. Rainbolt spoke to the potential of adding an extra Plant Walk for this day.

Ruth Brooks is available for an additional Plant Walk on January 16, 2026 for Arbor Day at 9 A.M.

Discussion ensued regarding recommended trees, shrubs, and ground covers and survivors along the island.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. 2026 Arbor Day Event Planning**

Rachel Rainbolt spoke to Arbor Day planning beginning in December and a

community event that City puts on. Ms. Rainbolt asked for recommendations that Committee has for a community event. A brief background a previous Arbor Day events.

## **9. Reports**

### **a. Natural Resources Liaison Report**

Natural Resources Liaison Rachel Rainbolt spoke to the Coffee with the Code event. Natural Resources is scheduled on November 19 at 11 A.M. - 12 P.M. reservations are required in advanced. Ms. Rainbolt continued to speak to plantings and installations of over 40,000 dune plants ranging from Buttonwood Lane to Bowmans Beach. The plants were founded by Tourist of Development Counselor (TDC).

### **b. Chairperson's Report**

Chair Wyskowski spoke to reaching out to Chris Comer for potentially speaking at the March Vegetation Committee Meeting.

Discussion ensued the Farmers Market participation and bringing plants to future events.

Chair Wyskowski spoke to an email from Steven Brown that was provided to the Committee regarding silver buttonwood and green buttonwood. Discussion ensued regarding Silver buttonwood vs. Green buttonwood.

### **c. Committee Member Report**

Committee Member Miller spoke to updated articles that are on the City's website and Press releases.

Discussion ensued regarding articles that are set up for November and December as well as future articles going further that would be resourceful.

## **10. Next Meeting Date**

### **a. Thursday, December 4, 2025 at MacKenzie Hall**

## **11. Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

## **12. Adjournment**

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 P.M.

