



# City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Vegetation Committee

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Thursday, January 5, 2023

1:30 PM

BIG ARTS - 900 Dunlop Road

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### 1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 1:31 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Chairperson Pamela Miller, Vice Chair Barbara Horvath, Committee Member Barbara Boyce, Committee Member Claudia Hoffman, Committee Member Edward Holden and Committee Member Mariana Pardo

**Absent:** 2 - Committee Member Phyllis Gresham and Adjunct Committee Member Ruth Brooks

#### a. Motion to Excuse Absent Members:

**Committee Member Holden moved, seconded by Committee Member Hoffman to excuse absent Committee Member Gresham and Adjunct Committee Member Brooks. The motion carried.**

**Excused:** 1 - Committee Member Gresham

### 4. Consent Agenda

#### a. Adoption of Minutes - December 1, 2022

**Committee Member Holden moved, seconded by Committee Member Hoffman to adopt the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion carried.**

**Excused:** 1 - Committee Member Gresham

### 5. Public Comment

No public were in attendance at this time.

### 6. Old Business

#### a. Arbor Day Preparations - January 21, 2023

Rachel Rainbolt, Conservation Officer, gave a brief history of the event and detailed the preparations for Arbor Day, scheduled for Friday, January 20th. She noted the sponsors for the event would be R.S. Walsh Landscaping and Beach Floor and Décor.

Discussion ensued regarding prizes for contest winners, the types of seedlings to be provided for the event and details of the event.

**b. Finalize Vegetation Competency & Fertilizer Class for January 6, 2023**

Ms. Rainbolt spoke to the success of the virtual testing for Vegetation Competency Licensing. Noting that renewal notices had gone to those due for renewal adding that the department is only issuing licenses online.

**c. Zoning changes update Chapter 122, Ch.30**

Ms. Rainbolt spoke to the actions of the Planning Commission regarding the recommendations by the Historical Preservation Committee in relation to vegetative standards and buffers. Discussion at the Planning Commission led to the desire for an additional workshop at a later date which has not been determined.

**d. Articles to Publish**

Ms. Rainbolt noted the numerous news releases by the City related to the Hurricane recovery efforts. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate articles to publish to help residents re-landscape hurricane-damaged properties. Committee agreed on publishing articles 5. Florida Native Plants, 6. Splendiferous Native Shade Trees, 14. The Right Plant the Right Place, and 8. To Sod or Not to Sod.

## **7. New Business**

**a. Calendar schedule for 2022 Committee Annual report**

Chair Miller briefly noted the schedule for the Annual Report.

**b. Vegetation 2022 Committee Annual Report draft**

Discussions ensued regarding the changes to be made to the Annual Report.

**c. National Invasive Species Awareness Week February 27-March 3, 2023**

Continued discussion was held regarding continuing to educate the public, supporting Native Plant Species Week at the end of February, various means of outreach, and alternatives for interactions at the farmer's market.

## **8. Reports**

**a. Natural Resources Department**

Ms. Rainbolt gave a brief report regarding the department returning to their island offices, continuing to issue permits and inspections as well as staff conducting courtesy visits for residents with questions related to landscaping and lake management.

**b. Council Liaison - Councilman Dr. Crater**

City Liaison, Councilman Crater spoke to the Committee drafting an article related to the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL), emphasizing anything planted waterward of that line has to be native, prevents erosion, not punitive, preserves the beach front, and provides more resilience.

**c. Committee Comments**

Committee Member Holden spoke to his desire to resume in-person plant walks and alternatives for continuing them.

The Committee inquired about the vegetation on City Hall campus and how it fared after the storm. Ms. Rainbolt noted the removal of some vegetation at City Hall but all are doing well and that most species are still represented. Continued discussion was had regarding the soil of the island being washed over with saltwater, planting after rainy season and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation replanting guidance.

Discussion ensued at length regarding the Committee facilitating a speaker series and having guest speakers provide guidance on various topics in a lecture style setting with virtual and in-person participation possible.

## **9. Next Meeting Date**

- a. 2023 Upcoming Meeting Dates at 1:30 p.m.**
  - i. Thursday, February 2, 2023
- b. 2023 Upcoming Vegetation Competency & Fertilizer Class & Test Dates**
  - i. April 7, 2023
  - ii. April 21, 2023 (Exam Due Date)

## **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.