CITY OF COCOA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2019

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the City of Cocoa was held on Thursday, December 5, 2019 in the Council Chambers at 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, as publicly noticed.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Riggs called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Jennifer Riggs	Chairperson
Robert Musser	Vice Chairperson
Linda Gombert	Committee Member
Melissa Martin	Committee Member
Angelique Rinaldi	Committee Member
Josephine Shim	Committee Member
Marlene Weiss	Committee Member
Lorraine Koss	Council Liaison
Courtney Jackson	Recording Secretary

PRESENT:

Jennifer Riggs	Chairperson
Linda Gombert	Committee Member
Melissa Martin	Committee Member
Angelique Rinaldi	Committee Member
Josephine Shim	Committee Member
Courtney Jackson	Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Robert Musser	Vice Chairperson
Marlene Weiss	Committee Member
Lorraine Koss	Council Liaison

STAFF PRESENT:

Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Deputy Director, **Allyson McCarron**, SAC Intern, **Jake Williams Jr.**, Mayor

Chair Riggs led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES:

AGENDA: Regular Meeting of December 5 2019.

- **MOTION by Chair Member Martin; SECONDED by Committee Member Shim to approve the agenda as presented for the meeting of December 5, 2019.**

  - Study noise (noise level monitoring) and light trespass of new development/improvements in Cocoa waterfront Master Plan for Riverfront Park, Lee Wenner Park, Taylor Park, and adjacent lands.
  - New development/improvements should have minimal noise and light pollution.
  - Study completion expected before Riverfront Park Promenade improvements bid announced on 12/2/19.
- Initiative: Protect Views of night sky without compromising pedestrian safety.
  - Reduce misdirected (upward, outward) light emissions caused by street lighting.
  - Update municipal lighting to full shielded and downward facing to reduce sky glow along bridges and roadways; install motion sensitive lighting; use warm-white lighting rather than LED blush-white and yellow.
  - Mayor Williams Jr. shared that FPL is currently updating the lighting in the City with LED to which Committee Member Rinaldi explained that while LED is cost-efficient it is not the most environmentally friendly. This led to a discussion regarding which lighting would be most environmentally friendly.
  - Chair Riggs suggested timers on the lights in the City to conserve electriCity.
- Initiative: Technical study on effects of development and deployment of 5G technology.
  - Review study findings and host public comment opportunity before City enters into future 5G technology contracts.
  - Reaching out to an unbiased independent third-party technical research group to conduct 5G study.
    - Committee Member Rinaldi shared that 5G has both pros and cons and it is wise to study the effects of it to see if there are any harmful health effects and if the ambience noise has an effect on health as well.
  - Allyson McCarron suggested that the timeframes of the initiatives should change from 12/31/2019 to 12/31/2020.

BE-2 Community Water Systems: Provide a clean and secure water supply for all local users through the management of portable water, wastewater, stormwater, and other piped infrastructure.

BE-2 Discussion:

- Initiative: Improve resilience of City of Cocoa Utilities water supply and water collection services.
  - Perform routine scheduled maintenance on water supply infrastructure; take inventory of status of entire system infrastructure/identify aging infrastructure; person repair/replacement of again infrastructure; establish public reporting policy requirements.
  - Regularly monitor and upgrade infrastructure to prevent leaks, breaks in the system to ensure clean and secure water supply for all customers.
  - Upgrade and improve stormwater, wastewater, and reclaimed water treatment facilities.

translator present. Charlene Neuterman explained that most citizens pay their water/utility bill at City Hall to avoid the charge for paying with a card. **Update – The City of Cocoa does have an option on the automated attendant for customers to press "8" for assistance in Spanish.**

- Initiative: Develop Emergency Water Plan
  - Improve City's capaCity to respond to crisis by ensuring access to an alternative drinking supply to residents, especially law-income and vulnerable residents.
    - Committee Member Rinaldi asked if Cocoa has an existing emergency water plan. Mayor Williams Jr. stated that Taylor Creek is Cocoa's secondary water supply.
  - Implementation by vendor contract- other recommendations included in EPA's June 2011 publication on Planning for an Emergency Drinking Water Supply.
  - Design and implement a strong emergency preparedness campaign for residences.
    - Committee Member Rinaldi made the recommendation to have a targeted campaign aimed at high water consumption areas.
  - Survey residences; multiple or one time mailing (one-pager or pamphlet) to Cocoa water customers along with their monthly bill, or all residences; make hardcopy checklists available for customers at Customer Service; post campaign on City website and 1x week on City social media outlet.
  - Design and implement City of Cocoa water conservation program and campaign for residences
  - Become an EPA WaterSense partner by 2021; survey residences; establish community outreach program on BMP's for reducing consumption; disseminate free media materials given to partners (e.g., public service announcements, fact sheets, brochures, press releases, water efficiency messages for utility providers, campaigns such as "Fix a Leak Week"; educate residences on Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Programs (UF/IFAS); Xeriscaping lawn practices with goal of all municipal buildings to employ Xeriscaping or alternative low-water lawn practices by 2022 and at least 1/3 of City residential lawns being certified through the KBB Lagoon Friendly Lawn Program by 2027.
  - Offer water customer rebates for purchases of WaterSense product showerheads, and faucets- as well as water conservation services; programs that reimburse residents and businesses for purchasing more water-conserving appliances and systems; strong campaign to promote City programs already in existence.
    - Committee Member Martin asked if the Water Department has the ability to analyze areas with high water consumption and at what point does the City approve charters for new developments regarding landscaping aspects. Charlene Neuterman replied to the second half of the question by relaying those types of decisions would be made in the development agreement during the early stages of planning.

- Mayor Williams Jr. replied that it is a local issue and it is on the property owners as far as implanting a rent price.
- Committee Member Martin asked if they could enforce a particular outside appearance.
- Charlene Neuterman replied that enforcement happens if there is a code issue (violation of the City Code or Florida Building Code). Any changes to the City Code are the responsibility of Council.
- Discussion between Charlene Neuterman and Committee Member Martin regarding if the buildings are zoned commercial and they are not engaging in commercial activity, is that a breach of contract or land use?
- Prioritize Barton Business District on Fiske and Barton Boulevards. Along US-1 and 520 corridors; adopt ordinances as necessary.
    - Charlene Neuterman explained that area is in Rockledge.
    - Chair Riggs noted that the most dangerous area is Fiske and 520 and commented on the dangers of jaywalking and the increased speeds of cars along the road.
    - Charlene Neuterman explained those roads are the responsibility of FDOT and the City has little to no control over changes. The City can present recommendations, but it is up to the state to make improvements.
    - Suggestion: contact your local legislators to put pressure on them to make safety changes on the roads. Charlene Neuterman also shared that the City is working on improvements with the Fiske Corridor Plan.

- Initiative: promote pedestrian scaled, mixed-use development in high-density areas that support public transit.
    - Promote safe pedestrian walkability in Historic Cocoa Village.
    - Marked and lighted crosswalks every 100 feet on pedestrian streets, at midblock locations
        - Charlene Neuterman explained that Public Works Director is currently on the suggested action.
    - Promote safe pedestrian walkability at corner radiuses throughout the City.
    - Repaint marked crosswalks that are worn (i.e. corner radius of Barton and Fiske Boulevards)**(this corner is in Rockledge)**; signage in advance of a marked crosswalks that cross an uncontrolled multi-lane approach in busier areas with more pedestrian traffic.
    - Study and identify and areas where bus stop locations cause dangerous conditions due to disruption in traffic flow, could be relocated.
    - Survey traffic conditions during bus service at bus stop located at SR 520 & Brevard Avenue (SW Corner).
    - Enhance the experience of bus passengers and passers-by at City-wide bus stops.
        - Suggestion of adding traffic signal boxes at bus stops.
        - Chair Riggs suggested implementing lighting at the Cocoa Campus of Eastern Florida State College to enhance safety.
    - Adopt an inclusionary zoning ordinance for income-eligible households to access affordable housing, support mixed-income housing development.
    - Create a City Inclusionary Housing Program; Consider inclusionary zoning provisions to require developments of 10 of more units to allocate 20% of

Committee Member Gombert explained that they would need to have training sessions with the volunteers and that it is doable but must be done right to be successful.

Chair Riggs suggested to have the volunteer hours go towards Bright Future hours.

Charlene Neuterman explained, in order to continue discussion of the landscaping content and further suggest recommendations, they would need to rescind their previous motion.

- **MOTION MADE BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SHIM; SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GOMBERT TO RESCIND THE REQUEST OF THE CITY PROVIDING PARCELS OF LAND THAT FEAUTURES HIGH VISABILITY, ACCESS TO WATER, AND HAS EXISITNG FOOT TRAFFIC.**

  AYES: RIGGS, GOMBERT, MARTIN, RINALDI, SHIM

  MOTION PASSES UNAMIOUSLY (5-0)

Further Topics Discussed:

- Discussion of master gardeners.
- Signage.
- Budgets for green plantings.
- Discretionary funds i.e. funds would require Council approval to appropriate.
- Solicit donations to the City in accordance to City policy.
- Regular maintenance process for green works through public spaces.
- Committee Member Rinaldi suggested to add an agenda item to talk about source of funding for the garden

Charlene Neuterman expressed that further landscaping contest discussion is unnecessary, as all details will depend on the location of the garden. She also expressed that the committee's focus needs to be on completing their Sustainability Plan in a timely manner. She added for the committee to be respectful of their intern's time, as she needs a completed plan to present to her professor for graduation in May 2020. She recommended Satellite Beach's Sustainability Plan and using their 20 most important factors that the committee implements. Lastly, she made the committee aware that they she wants to present their plan to council by March with potential adoption in April. Once a plan is adopted, the committee can propose budgetary requests for the FY2021 budget.

- **MOTION MADE BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SHIM; SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER MARTIN TO REQUEST THE CITY TO PROVIDE PARCELS OF LAND THAT FEATURES HIGH VISABILITY, ACCESS TO WATER, AND HAS EXISITNG FOOT TRAFFIC FOR THE FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING CONTEST.**

  AYES: RIGGS, GOMBERT, MARTIN, RINALDI, SHIM

  MOTION PASSES UNAMIOUSLY (5-0)

3. FY Budget and Identified Sustainability Budget Items:

- **MOTION by Vice Chair Musser; SECONDED by Committee Member Shim to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2019.**

  AYES: RIGGS, GOMBERT, MARTIN, RINALDI, SHIM

  MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

  There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

Robert Musser
~~Jennifer Riggs~~, Chair - Vice Robert Musser

Respectfully Submitted by:

Courtney Jackson, Recording Secretary