CITY OF COCOA
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2019

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the City of Cocoa was held on Thursday, November 7, 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
Gisele Neiman	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
Robert Musser	Vice Chairperson
Linda Gombert	Committee Member
Melissa Martin	Committee Member
Gisele Neiman	Committee Member
Angelique Rinaldi	Committee Member
Josephine Shim	Committee Member
Lorraine Koss	Council Liaison

ABSENT:

Marlene Weiss	Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT:
Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Deputy Director, **Allyson McCarron**, SAC Intern

Chair Riggs provided the invocation and 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 November 7, 2019.

Chair Riggs suggested to move item IV up to II to discuss priority items first.

Talking Points:

1a: Assist Local Agencies and Environmental Groups in Obtaining Information on Water Quality Indicators Including Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Turbidity and Chlorophyll-a:

- Caity Savoia (MRC Lead Scientist) being best point of contact for report updates from the monitoring sites. Further discussion regarding other monitoring sites, locations of monitoring sites, reports and when reports are sent out.
- How to implement MRC data findings on the Cocoa Website to keep citizens informed what is happening at the monitoring station.
- **Committee Member Shim** inquired on the significance of chlorophyll-a vs. chlorophyll.
    - **Committee Member Nieman** assumes it is in terms of how it affects sea grass.

1b- Assist Local Agencies and Environmental Groups in Obtaining Habitat Data Including the Presence (or lack of) Sea Grass and Viability of Oyster Habitats:

- Brevard Zoo's Restore Our Shores has done all of Cocoa's waterfront to verify the viability of oyster habitats. Contract for project has started and the timeline will depend on the permits and contracts they receive.
    - Discussion of plans to implement an oyster reef in Lee Wenner Park.
- Vice Chair Musser shared that MRC received county grant for oyster reefs.

2a- Fertilizer Impacts, Bans and Types (i.e Slow Release and No Phosphorus), Grass Clippings Harm ad Incentive Natural Law Care Practices:

- Sharing information from local action 2a in the FYI Newsletter to educate citizens.
- **Committee Member Martin** noted there is a year-round ban on phosphorus and slow-release ~~hydrogen~~[3] nitrogen[4] is only allowed during a 6-month period. She felt that an ad would be a great informational piece to educate the public that phosphorus is never allowed.
- Discussion regarding obtaining licenses and renewal policies in Brevard.
- **Chair Riggs** inquired how to deal with and report neighbors/citizens/companies who violate/ignore the fertilizer ban when it is active.
    - **Committee Member Martin** explained that it would depend on Code Enforcement's policy regarding code violation tip-offs which **Charlene Neuterman** added how Code Enforcement would handle such a tip in each situation.
    - **Vice Chair Musser** suggested the first approach to those in violation of the fertilizer ban would be to educate them with a flyer or brochure.
    - **Council Liaison Koss** agreed with the educational component and suggested an "educational visit" from Code Enforcement for first time offenders.

2b- Sanitary sewer lines and septic Tanks Impacts and the Need for Inspection:

[3] Strikethrough amendment made by Committee Member Gombert on 12/05/2019
[4] "Nitrogen" added by Committee Member Gombert on 12/05/2019

Water Management District (SJRWMD), and other local and governmental resources available:

- **Committee Member Nieman** requested from Staff occasional updates on how things are going as she feels this is out of the committee's hands.

3c- Evaluate City's Impervious Footprint and Create Incentives, Programs and Projects that reduce Pavement/Building Footprints, Increase Green Area/Use Permeable Pavements, and Reroute Rainwater into the Ground as Close to Where it Falls as Possible:

- Discussion on evaluating the city's footprint.
  - **Council Liaison Koss** shared that Cocoa switched from having stormwater fees on the water bill, it is now on a non-ad valorem tax assessment and explained the change in further detail.
- Discussion of who would handle educational component.
  - Point of contacts would be communications and stormwater department.

3d- Increase the Frequency of the city's Street Sweeping Program, in areas that Drain to the IRL, to Reduce Debris, Trash and leaf litter Entering the Public Storm Sewer System that flows to the IRL:

- Suggestion to evaluate the city's street sweeping program and its effectiveness.
- Discussion regarding aspects of VAC-CON.

3e- Active Stormwater Treatment such as Aeration, Diffusion, Bioactive Absorptive Media (BAM) to Improve Nutrient Reduction Effectiveness:

- **Vice Chair Musser** discussed installation of additional baffle boxes and benefits of doing so.
  - **Chair Riggs** asked if the stormwater plan h[6]as ~~an~~[7] limited[8] amount of baffle boxes and how to pursue that idea.
  - **Council Liaison Koss** felt Cocoa needs to be more aggressive in putting in baffle boxes.
  - Recommendation to seek funding opportunities with St. Johns, NAP, and SORREL for additional baffle boxes.

3f- Create Stormwater Pond Parks and Bio-retention Sidewalks and Trails:

- Signage to educate public on stormwater pond parks and bio-retention sidewalks and trails.
  - Allyson McCarron explained what a bio-retention sidewalk is.
- **Chair Riggs** asked if Clean Marina Program would be relevant to cocoa Harbor.
- Looking into other educational opportunities.

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[6] Amendment made by Chair Riggs on 12/05/2019.
[7] Amendment made by Chair Riggs on 12/-5/2019.
[8] Amendment made by Chair Riggs on 12/05/2019.

Committee Member Shim presented an overview of the changes she has made to her plan[10] and asked for committee and staff feedback.

Talking Points:

- Compile an inventory of regional sustainability resources to include citizens groups and organizations.
    - Going to 211 Brevard to gather resources for organization.
- Improve Communication by making sure that City of Cocoa residents have access to digital billboards similar to the one on US1.
- Improve communication by increasing the use of Cocoa's website and Facebook page and monitor usage.
    - **Chair Riggs** added she would like to a host a workshop to review what citizen's think their informational needs are.
- Encourage participation to district town hall meetings and Neighborhood Watch meetings.
- How to improve voter turnout in the Mayor's Challenge.
    - Extra points for not getting a new Mayor's Challenge t-shirt.
- Increase Voter Turnout Rate in the City of Cocoa.
    - **Chair Riggs** suggested hosting mock elections at the local schools.
    - **Chair Riggs** further added to get high school students involved in voting by implementing a reporting program.
- Encourage participation in Citizen's Academy.
- Invite students to city council meetings.
- Discussion in how to incorporate city property to allow election signs.
    - **Committee Member Martin** suggested implementing PSA/informational signs to encourage citizens to vote and hosting polls to see how citizens would prefer to vote.
- **Chair Riggs** further added to get high school students involved in voting by implementing a reporting program through the school's journalism program. Also involving local student governments in city council meetings.
- Provide information and education to the public regarding environmental justice conditions and available programs and services to alleviate disproportionate impact.
    - Committee Member Martin suggested to work with a legal aid organization to provide information on rights.
- Conduct a comprehensive environmental justice assessment.
    - Look at NAACP's study goals and apply what the committee has learned for other studies.
    - **Chair Riggs** suggested to work with Dr. Lindeman to get ideas how to incorporate environmental justice.

C. Health and Safety- J. Shim (Feedback/Updates).

[10] SAC Plan Draft: Equity and Empowerment

Discussion between **Committee Member Martin** and **Kaylyn Palmer** regarding if there has been discussion regarding the compost facility capturing methane gas that comes off of the facility.

3. FY2020 Budget and Identified Sustainability Budget Items:

Tabled until December 5, 2019.

4. Florida Friendly Landscaping Contest Discussion:

Talking Points:

- How to communicate ideas before next meeting while complying with Sunshine Law.
- **Chair Riggs** suggested highly visible greenspaces and ensuring they have good modeling opportunities.
- **Charlene Neuterman** explained criteria for awards.
- **Vice Chair Musser** suggested KBB Lagoon Friendly Yard Program and having the city become more involved in other sustainability/environmental programs.
- Discussion of areas that can potentially hold a demonstration garden.
- **Charlene Neuterman** suggested to bring the criteria they felt was needed for the contest to discuss at the next meeting and explained the complications of choosing Lee Wenner Park as their location for the contest.
- Discussion of model locations.
- **Council Liaison Koss** expressed that she feels more comfortable with a partnership with master gardeners for the best results and will reach-out to City Manager Titkanich and Assistant City Manager Fuhrer ideal locations.
    - **Chair Riggs** suggested an existing greenspace that is presently requiring city care.
    - **Mrs. Neuterman** suggested that this could be a council initiative as it may require changes that already in place. She explained that landscape contract that is already in place and if there is a change to the scope of the work that is currently contracted, the change would need be initiated by council to implement a change order. She added that the landscaping design bid at the Lee Wenner Park is also already contacted and any changes to the plants would need to be changed through a council initiated change order.
- Discussion regarding future RFP process.
- **Chair Riggs** suggested to identify a combination of plantings that are signature to Cocoa that could be repeated and environmentally friendly to do so.

5. 2020 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule:

Mrs. Neuterman provided the proposed 2020 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting schedule and requested approval.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is schedule for the first Thursday of each Month and the 2020 schedule is recommended as the following:

The next meeting for the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be a Regular Meeting, Held on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at Cocoa City Hall located at 65 Stone Street, unless a business need arises earlier.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

- **MOTION by Vice Chair Musser; SECONDED by Committee Member Shim to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2019.**

  AYES: RIGGS, MUSSER, GOMBERT, MARTIN, NIEMAN, RINALDI, SHIM

  MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

  There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Jennifer Riggs, Chair
Robert Musser Vice

Respectfully Submitted by: