

**ITY OF COCOA BEACH
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday February 7, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Bob Day, Waylon Locklear, Keith Capizzi, Adria Perez

Members Absent: Jamie Glasner

Staff Present: Kelsey Mack

Commission Members Present: none.

Visitors Present: 8

A. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Perez called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Approval of January 3, 2024 meeting minutes: Mr. Day motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Locklear. The minutes were approved unanimously.

B. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Brandon Smith of the Brevard County Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program provided a presentation. Mr. Smith discussed current projects and progress relating to the SOIRL Program. Members of the committee and the public asked questions regarding Mr. Smith's presentation. Mr. Smith addressed the questions as appropriate.

C. STAFF UPDATES: Ms. Mack provided an update about upcoming environmental events, announcing a sea oat planting at 2nd street south.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Sustainability Plan Updates: Ms. Mack provided a presentation describing the history and status of the 2018 sustainability plan. Following the presentation the committee continued discussions regarding the community survey. The committee reviewed the priority ranking of the committee members who conducted a close review of the survey's findings. The committee discussed placing the highest emphasis on providing publicly available information, workshops, and other activities as it relates to the highest ranked areas/topics of the survey.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

FY25 Budget recommendations: The committee reviewed the recommendations they submitted for the commission to consider in the FY24 budget. City staff provided an overview of which items within the FY24 recommendations were funded and where those budgeted funds are within the City budget. The Committee discussed recycling several project recommendations that were not included in the FY24 budget. Mr. Perez also stated that she would like to see funds allocated for community workshops for topics such as rain barrels that are low or no cost to the participant. City staff will prepare an updated document based on the committees' discussions to be considered at the next meeting.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Mr. Locklear nominated Ms. Perez to serve as Chair of the committee. Mr. Day nominated Mr. Locklear to serve as vice chair. The nominees accepted their nominations. The committee agreed to postpone the final vote until the next meeting when all committee members are present.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Day announced the Thousand Islands Festival that is scheduled for March 16th, 2024 at the Pool Pavilion. Mr. Day stated that the festival will involve kayak tours, native plant tours, lagoon related activities and presentations and other activities.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: Leonard Dukes, resident, spoke in regards to his support for stormwater initiatives. Mr. Dukes also discussed pollutants in canals and the Indian River Lagoon such as yard debris and bacteria.

H. ADJOURNMENT: The next tentative meeting is scheduled for 3/13/2024, at 6:30 P.M. No other items were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

_____ Date _____
Environmental Specialist, Kelsey Mack

_____ Date _____
Committee Chair,

_____ Date _____
Committee Vice Chair,



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission
Thru: City Manager
From: Sustainability Committee Chairman
Date: 3/13/2024
Subject: Sustainability Committee Annual Budget Item Recommendations

In accordance with Resolution NO. 2016-21, Section IV I 3, the City of Cocoa Beach Sustainability Committee recommends to the City Commission, for their approval, the following Sustainability Plan tasks to be included in the City Strategic Plan and fiscal year 2025 City budget.

Overview:

As stated in the Sustainability Plan adopted in 2018, Cocoa Beach will place the highest emphasis on education. The below recommendations list a number of items that the Sustainability Committee has determined are necessary to progress forward in implementing Sustainability Plan Element 1, which focuses on community education and engagement. In addition to education, the committee recommends that the City continue to serve as responsible environmental stewards through removal of non-native invasive vegetation, habitat restoration and protection. Finally, the committee suggests that the City continue to set an example for residents and other municipalities by reducing its carbon footprint by identifying projects that will carbon emissions and strategically implementing said projects to reach the City’s goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. In addition, the committee suggests the City continue to track and report carbon emissions to highlight reductions in the City’s carbon footprint that result from sustainability improvement projects.

Overview

| Item No. | Sustainability Plan Element Link | Task | Recommended Budget Amount |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Operating Budget Recommendations | | | |
| 1 | Element 1 | Sustainability/Environmental Education | \$2,500 |
| 2 | Element 1 | Sustainability Workshops and Events | \$6,000 |
| 3 | Element 1 | Habitat Protection and Restoration | \$30,000 |
| 4 | Element 1 | Community Garden | \$10,000 |
| Total | | | \$48,500 |
| Professional Services Recommendations | | | |
| 5 | Element 3 | Carbon Emissions Reduction Master Plan | \$65,000 |
| 6 | Element 1 and 2 | Sea Turtle Services | \$31,000 |
| Total | | | \$96,000 |
| Capital Improvement Project Recommendations | | | |
| 7 | Element 2 | Community EV Charging | \$12,000 |
| 8 | Element 3 | Rooftop Solar | \$420,000 |
| Total | | | \$432,000 |

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL BUDGET ITEM RECCOMENDATIONS FY25

OPERATING BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

1. **Education and Outreach Materials:**

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$2,500

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$5,000

FY24 Recommended: \$5,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends that the sustainability education program remain consistent with activities that have taken place in the past. Specific areas of focus include sea turtle friendly lighting, Banana River Lagoon, native plants and increasing engagement with environmental and sustainability information posted on City run social media platforms. Many educational programs are now well established. The requested budget amount is expected to replenish educational materials and develop new material as needed. Education and outreach materials will include: pamphlets, flyers, banners, educational kiosks, sustainability promotional items and social media education campaigns.

2. **Sustainability Workshops and Events**

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$6,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$6,000

FY24 Recommended: \$6,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends that the City continue budgeting funds for sustainability information sessions and events. The requested amount will be utilized to host sustainability events more frequently, expand Earth Day and IRL related programing and provide small incentives (snacks, drinks, sunscreen, etc.) for event volunteers.

3. **Habitat Protection and Restoration**

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$30,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$29,000

FY24 Recommended: \$29,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends that the city continue to allocate funding for habitat protection and restoration in FY25. In FY24 the budget is being used to perform invasive plant removal and native plant restoration within a portion of the dunes at Fischer Park and for community sea oat planting events. Additional funds will allow the City to continue restoration efforts while keeping up with rising costs of services and materials. Estimated project cost for restoration of 1 acre of dune overtaken by large invasive plants is \$25,000. The committee recommends that the additional budget be utilized to continue restoration of conservation lands throughout the city through invasive plant management and planting of Florida native plants.

4. **Community Garden**

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$10,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$6,000

FY24 Recommended: \$6,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends that the budget allocated for the community garden be increased in FY25. In FY24 the budget was primarily used to replenish garden beds with new dirt, improve the pollinator garden, and perform general maintenance tasks. Due to high demand for garden plots, the committee supports the construction of a second community garden location within the city. The additional funding requested for FY25 will support the development of a second community garden location for use and enjoyment by the public. Implementation of a second community garden is estimated cost is \$7,000 which includes: building materials, garden soil, irrigation, and a storage shed.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL BUDGET ITEM RECCOMENDATIONS FY25

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

5. Carbon Emissions Reduction Master Plan

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$65,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$0

FY24 Requested: \$65,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends that carbon emissions tracking and reduction planning be a key area of focus in FY25. The first municipal operations greenhouse gas inventory has been completed and in January of 2022 the City Commission adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across municipal operations to net zero by 2050. Appropriate strides must be taken to ensure the city meets or exceeds this goal. Moving forward, the committee recommends that the city seek assistance from qualified professionals to identify projects that will reduce the City's carbon footprint and set a project implementation schedule. The Committee also recommends that the city create and implement a Carbon Reduction Master Plan or similar document that will lay the framework for future project implementation and success.

6. Sea Turtle Services

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$31,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$35,720

FY24 Requested: \$35,750

The Sustainability Committee recommends that the city continue to support sea turtle nesting habitat protection. According to FWC, Brevard County beaches are of high importance to sea turtle nesting activity, documenting over 127,000 nests in 2022. The city holds an FEDP mechanical beach rake permit, which requires sea turtle nests to be surveyed and marked in designated areas including: Fischer Park, Shepard Park and Minutemen Causeway. This is an annual recurring cost that is estimated to be \$23,000 in FY25. The committee also supports continued educational efforts relating to reducing artificial lighting that has shown to impact sea turtle nesting and hatchling emergence behaviors. The committee recommends budgeting \$8,000 for the purpose of conducting two sea turtle lighting surveys to complement education and outreach efforts.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

7. Community Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$12,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$0

FY24 Requested by Public Works: \$12,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends that the City begin expanding its EV charging network. Currently, the City has one EV charging station, which is located in the parking garage. To keep up with increasing EV charging demand and to accommodate more visitors and residents who utilize public facilities, the committee recommends that the City budget funds to install a minimum of two additional EV charging stations at a public facility in FY25, if the budget allows. The Committee also recommends that City staff look for opportunities to utilize grant funding and partnerships to expedite the expansion of the EV charging network.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL BUDGET ITEM RECCOMENDATIONS FY25

8. Rooftop Solar Array

FY25 Recommended Amount: \$420,000

FY24 Budgeted Amount: \$0

FY24 Requested by Public Works: \$420,000

The Sustainability Committee recommends the installation of rooftop solar arrays on two of the newest city buildings: Fire Station 51 (Estimate: \$185,000) and the Police Station (Estimate: \$235,000). It is estimated that installation of rooftop solar on these two City buildings will reduce carbon emissions produced by the city's building and facilities sector by 18% from the 2019 baseline, according to the Cocoa Beach Green House Gas Inventory Report completed in 2021. Solar power availability, will also improve Cocoa Beach's resilience to operate critical infrastructure with clean energy in the event of an outage. By installing rooftop solar, the city will have the opportunity to receive monthly returns on the investment in the form of FPL bill credits, saving the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs over the expected system lifetime of 25 years. The Committee also recommends that City staff look for opportunities to utilize grant funding, federal rebate programs, and partnerships to offset up front installation costs.

In addition to the projects and programs recommended above, the committee would like to emphasize our unanimous support for the implementation of Stormwater Management Projects that will benefit the Banana River Lagoon. The committee has reviewed the proposed project schedule recommended in the City's Stormwater Master Plan and encourages the city to stay on schedule as the impacts of these projects will be of direct benefit to the BRL and community. As stated in the Sustainability Plan, Element 4, we recognize that water quality impacts to the BRL represent one of the most significant near-term environmental impairments in Cocoa Beach. The Committee is pleased that the City of Cocoa Beach has shown to be a leader in implementing stormwater management technologies and looks forward to seeing the implementation of future projects.

Kelsey Mack, Environmental and Sustainability
Program Manager

Adria Perez, Committee Chair

Waylon Locklear, Committee Vice-Chair

Approved by the Sustainability Committee on: 03/013/2024