

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY

DUNEDIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
223 DOUGLAS AVE, DUNEDIN, FL 34698 (MEETING ROOM A)
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Officers Present: Howard Gray (Chair); Phil Worth (Vice Chair); Amy Dugan (Secretary)

Regular Members Present: Kathryn Owen, Fiona Prosser, Ryan Harris, Barb Thornton

Regular Members Absences: Susan Dickison, Michelle Birnbaum, Mike Costello

Alternates Present: N/A

City Staff Present: Natalie Gass, Sustainability Program Manager, Staff Liaison

Other Attendees: Alana Todd (TBRPC), Cheryl Stimac, Commissioner Jeff Gow, Debby Sheldon

Due to the CEQS vote at the June 2023 meeting, all absences will now be marked as "unexcused."

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Howard Gray called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

1. **PRESENTATIONS:** None

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- a. Approval of Consent Agenda including the January 30, 2024 DRAFT Minutes – Chair Howard Gray announced the agenda item and asked if anyone had any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. Chair Howard Gray asked for a motion.

MOTION: Motion was made by Fiona Prosser and seconded by Kathryn Owen to approve the Consent Agenda including the **January 30, 2024 Minutes**.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Vote on two alternate members:** Tabled until next meeting. Members discussed if changing the start time of the meetings negatively or positively impacted attendance. Members of the group shared they've seen better attendance and more guests by having evening meetings. Others shared the concern that people may not know about the meeting or group. Members shared how they found out about the Committee. The top ways were through the City's website, word of mouth, the City's weekly newsletter, Citizen's Academy, and by voicing concerns to the City where staff redirected them to this group. Staff Liaison Natalie Gass said she would speak with the Communications

Department to see what promotion can be done. She also shared that Doug Knapp would no longer be able to stay a member due to workload. This means at the next meeting, the Committee will vote on two alternates and one regular member.

- b. **EV Charging Station Program Update:** Staff Liaison Natalie Gass updated the Committee on the EV Charging Pilot Program and next steps. Duke Energy will maintain ownership of the two DC Fast Chargers at the Library and Monroe Parking Garage. Both are to be made ADA van accessible. Discussion about incentive for Duke Energy to make the program run properly. The City will maintain the eight Level-2 Chargers and has switched the network from ShellRecharge to ChargeUp. Debby Sheldon asked what type of service level agreement was being signed and if it had specific up time minimums for the equipment. She also asked if peak times and metrics could be published on the website. Natalie Gass said she would check and report back on both items.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Hurricane Preparedness – education, outreach, and awareness:** The Committee discussed if this topic was within the Charter and if so, how involved they should be. Currently, no other Committees are involved in the City’s Hurricane Expo planning or event. Staff Liaison Natalie Gass mentioned the City is working on resilience and hurricane preparedness. She reported that the City received a FDEP Resilient Florida grant for just under \$381,000. This will allow the City to conduct a city-wide vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan. Ryan Harris said this topic spans across many committees and education could become the narrative. The Committee discussed multiple ways they could educate the community including environmental impacts, EV batteries, flooding, home improvement projects that residents can complete before hurricane season, and welcome packets for new residents. Ryan Harris and Amy Dugan shared they have contacts with the National Weather Service that could provide education at the City’s Hurricane Expo. Other members shared there could be an annual summit or conference put on by all of the advisory committees for discuss resilience and preparedness. Natalie Gass said she would check with the City to see what involvement the Committee could have with this event.
- b. **Update on Edgewater Pollinator Pathway:** Staff Liaison Natalie Gass shared the Cece Lasky, Chair of the Edgewater Drive Committee, is interested in planting a Pollinator Pathway along John Grant Hubbard Park. Cece will be meeting with City Staff to discuss this on March 11th, 2024.
- c. **Stormwater update on the balance between wildlife and retention ponds:** Discussion tabled until next meeting – Susan Dickison will report on this subject for the March meeting.
- d. **Next meeting agenda items:**
 - i. Staff Liaison Report Out
 - 1. City stance on nuclear power
 - 2. Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations
 - 3. CEQS promotion for more engagement

- 4. Hurricane Expo
 - 5. Edgewater Dive Committee – Pollinator Pathway at Hubbard Park
 - ii. Stormwater – drainage vs wildlife
 - iii. Review and vote on 2023 Annual Report
 - iv. Charter Review – Resolution 22-05
 - v. Committee Focus Planning
 - vi. Vote on two alternates and one regular member
- e. **Attendance for February 2024 Meeting:** The recorded attendance for the meeting is as follows:

February 27, 2024:

Name	Position	Attendance
Howard Gray	Chair	Present
Phil Wirth	Vice Chair	Present
Amy Dugan	Secretary	Present
Kathryn Owen	Regular Member	Present
Fiona Prosser	Regular Member	Present
Ryan Harris	Regular Member	Present
Michelle Birnbaum	Regular Member	Absent
Mike Costello	Regular Member	Absent
Susan Dickison	Regular Member	Absent
Doug Knapp	Regular Member	N/A – no longer a member
Barb Thornton	Regular Member	Present
TBD	Alternate #1	N/A – position not filled
TBD	Alternate #2	N/A – position not filled

5. NEXT MEETING

- a. Tuesday, **March 26th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.** Location: Dunedin Community Center: 1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, FL 34698 (Aberdeen Meeting Room)

CITIZEN INPUT:

- a. Alana Todd, Principal Environmental Planner, of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) introduced herself to the Committee. She said she is a TBRPC liaison and was assigned to the City of Dunedin. Her plan is to attend quarterly committee meetings and events. She decided to start with this committee and is looking forward to supporting Dunedin’s environmental sustainability and resilience efforts.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- a. Ryan Harris asked about the City of Dunedin Strategic Planning process. Staff Liaison Natalie Gass showed the Committee how to access the project information via the City's website. This project and others can be found on the Dunedin Engage webpage.
- b. State of the City event to occur on Thursday evening at 5:30 PM at Dunedin City Hall, 737 Loudon Ave, Dunedin, FL 34698. The meeting will also be broadcasted online.
- c. Staff Liaison Natalie Gass will send the Annual Report the former Chair Kathryn Owen drafted. The Committee members are to review the document and to come prepared at the next meeting with edits, additions, and ready to vote on the document.
- d. Staff Liaison Natalie Gass also mentioned the idea of having a theme or focus topic for each meeting. For example, March could be native plants and April could be electric vehicles. A theme could be assigned to each meeting and the schedule of meeting themes for the year could be posted so that residents, Commissioners, and local experts could be prepared to join in the conversation.

ADJOURN MEETING: Chair Howard Gray asked to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM

MOTION: Motion was made by Phil Wirth and seconded by Ryan Harris to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Dugan, Secretary

Disability Provisions: It is the policy of the City of Dunedin not to discriminate against disabled persons in employment or the provisions of services. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the ADA Coordinator 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting at (727) 298-3043.



**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY (CEQS)
PLEASE SIGN IN BELOW**

Tuesday, February 27th, 2024 | 6:00 PM | Dunedin Public Library

Position	Name (Print)	Signature
Chair	Howard Gray	<i>Howard Gray</i>
Vice Chair	Phil Wirth	<i>Phil Wirth</i>
Secretary	Amy Dugan	<i>Amy Dugan</i>
Regular Member	Kathryn Owen	<i>Kathryn Owen</i>
Regular Member	Fiona Prosser	<i>Fiona Prosser</i>
Regular Member	Susan Dickison	
Regular Member	Michelle Birnbaum	
Regular Member	Ryan Harris	<i>Ryan Harris</i>
Regular Member	Mike Costello	
Regular Member	Doug Knapp	N/A - NO longer a member
Regular Member	Barb Thornton	<i>Barb Thornton</i>
Guest	Alana Todd	<i>Alana Todd</i>
Guest	Cheryl Stimac	<i>Cheryl Stimac</i>
Guest	<i>Todd Co</i>	<i>Todd Co</i>
Guest	DERBY SHILTON	<i>Derby Shilton</i>
Guest		
Guest		