

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY

DUNEDIN COMMUNITY CENTER  
1920 PINEHURST ROAD, DUNEDIN, FL 34698 (ABERDEEN MEETING ROOM)  
TUESDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 | 6:00 PM

**Officers Present:** Howard Gray (Chair); Amy Dugan (Secretary)

**Officers Absent:** Phil Worth (Vice Chair)

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

**Regular Member Absent:** Michelle Birnbaum

**Alternates Present:** N/A

**City Staff Present:** Natalie Gass, Sustainability Program Manager / Staff Liaison and Savannah Bunch, Environmental Specialist I

**Other Attendees:** David Graves, Bob Volkmar, Alan Brand, Commissioner John Tornga, Commissioner Jeff Gow

*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 6:00 PM**

1. **PRESENTATIONS:** None

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- a. Approval of Consent Agenda including the February 27, 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 Kathryn Owen and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve the Consent Agenda including the **February 27, 2024 Minutes**.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Staff Liaison Report Out: Staff Liaison Natalie Gass reported on the following:**
- i. City stance on nuclear power – a records search was made and nothing was found.

- ii. Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations – recommendation to add photos was heard and photos have been added to the City’s website. New software system has been instituted.
- iii. CEQS promotion for more engagement – the City’s Communications Department sent out information on Facebook and the newsletter which gathered interested members.
- iv. Hurricane Expo – will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at City Hall beginning at 5:00 PM – staff connected with Brian LaMarre from the National Weather Service.
- v. Edgewater Drive Committee - Pollinator Pathway at Hubbard Park – the Chair of the Committee met with the City Manager and staff on 3/11/24. The plan is for Edgewater Drive Committee to develop a formal and detailed proposal for the park and then submit it to the City Commission and City Manager. They have support and interaction with the Pinellas Native Plant Society. They are currently determining plant selection, space, irrigation needs, and maintenance.

b. **Vote on members:** Members discussed openings and applicants.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Kathryn Owen and seconded by Susan Dickison to recommend David Graves and Bob Volkmar as regular CEQS members.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Review and Vote on 2023 Annual Report:** The Committee reviewed the edits and additions to the report. The vote was paused until after the Committee Focus Planning activity was complete. Once this was completed by the group, they voted.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Amy Dugan and seconded by Fiona Prosser to approve the **2023 Annual Report and 2024 Action Plan** with the addition of the four topics selected during the Committee Focus Planning activity.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Committee Charter Review – [Resolution 22-05](#):** The Committee discussed changes to their charter. Ryan Harris asked if the Committee should include resilience in the charter. He stated that he would conduct research and bring a motion to a later meeting.

- c. **Committee Focus Planning – Themed Meetings / [DREAM](#) Implementation:** Topics were printed and taped to the board. Staff Liaison Natalie Gass explained each of the categories. The Committee members were given sticky notes to be placed on their top categories as a way of voting and prioritizing efforts. The Committee worked on narrowing the focus of the goals for the upcoming year in this manner. The list was narrowed down to four items:

- **Neighborhood cleanups**
- **Transportation / rideshare / pedestrian safety**
- **Pledge against single-use plastics**
- **Marine beach cleanups**

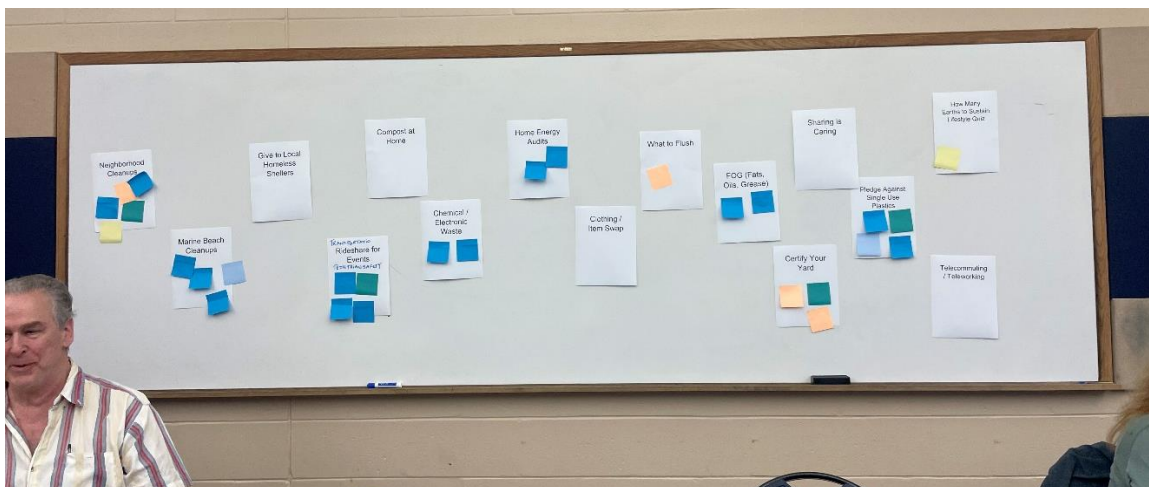
Once the four items were selected, the Committee discussed the best way to discuss each item during the meetings throughout the year.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Amy Dugan and seconded by Kathryn Owen to add *Pledge Against Single-Use Plastics* on the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 agenda as a 30-minute workshop.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.



*CEQS members vote using sticky notes to select prioritized topics*



*CEQS members vote using sticky notes to select prioritized topics*

- d. **Stormwater – Drainage vs Wildlife Habitat:** Susan Dickison updated the Committee on flooding within the community as well as efforts that the City is taking that were addressed during the Stormwater Advisory Committee meeting: installing valves and suggested retention ponds be low mow, Curlew Creek, Cedar Creek bacterial levels

exceeding, City will receive a violation, there is a list of projects and maintenance lists to come in the future. There was also a discussion on retention ponds in neighborhoods shared by neighborhoods and HOAs and issues that may arise.

e. **Next meeting agenda items:**

- i. Vote on alternate members
- ii. Stormwater – drainage vs wildlife
- iii. Committee Charter Review – Resolution 22-05
- iv. 30-minute workshop on: Single-use Plastics
- v. Agenda items for next meeting

f. **Attendance for March 2024 Meeting:** The recorded attendance for the meeting is as follows:

March 26, 2024:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Howard Gray	Chair	Present
Phil Wirth	Vice Chair	Absent
Amy Dugan	Secretary	Present
Kathryn Owen	Regular Member	Present
Fiona Prosser	Regular Member	Present
Ryan Harris	Regular Member	Present
Michelle Birnbaum	Regular Member	Absent
Susan Dickison	Regular Member	Present
Barb Thornton	Regular Member	Present
<i>TBD</i>	Alternate #1	N/A – position not filled
<i>TBD</i>	Alternate #2	N/A – position not filled

5. NEXT MEETING

- a. Tuesday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 PM.** Location: Dunedin Public Library Center: 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL 34698 (Meeting Room A)

2024 CEQS Meeting Schedule:

- ~~January 30<sup>th</sup>~~
- ~~February 27<sup>th</sup>~~
- ~~March 26<sup>th</sup>~~
- April 30<sup>th</sup>
- May 28<sup>th</sup>
- June 25<sup>th</sup>
- July 30<sup>th</sup>
- August (optional)
- September 24<sup>th</sup>
- October 29<sup>th</sup>
- NO November
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>

**CITIZEN INPUT:**

- a. N/A.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- a. N/A.

**ADJOURN MEETING: Chair Howard Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM**

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.*