



Town of Melbourne Beach

TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018
6:00 p.m.
MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Town Commission

Mayor Jim Simmons
Vice Mayor Tom Davis
Commissioner Wyatt Hoover
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie
Commissioner Steve Walters

Town Manager Bob Daniels
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

Environmental Advisory Board

Curtis Byrd, Chairman
Kelli Hunsucker
Marti Veatch
Frank Thomas
Christina Keshishian

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town Commission conducted a Town Commission Workshop
at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 in the
Town Hall Masny Room

I. Call to Order

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Town Clerk Wilson led roll call:

Present:

Mayor Simmons
Vice Mayor Davis
Commissioner Quarrie
Commissioner Hoover
Chairman Byrd
Member Hunsucker
Member Thomas
Member Keshishian

Staff Present:

Town Manager Daniels
Town Clerk Wilson

Absent:

Commissioner Walters
Member Veatch

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Led by Mayor Simmons

IV. Public Comments

Nobody asked to speak.

V. New Business

- A. Joint meeting with the Environmental Advisory Board, and with special guest Dr. Kenneth Lindeman from Florida Tech, to discuss sustainability

Mayor Simmons welcomed back Dr. Ken Lindeman who gave a presentation about sustainability at our December workshop. He was present on this evening to give us some ideas about how to move forward with our efforts. The Mayor said that Satellite Beach's full sustainability program is extensive but we could use their plan as a baseline and work from there, choosing projects that are more closely aligned with our budget and community needs.

Dr. Lindeman said his presentation contains a lot of information and resources adding that we should continue the planning that the EAB Board started in the 1990's. He said there is some low hanging fruit so going from Point A to Point B may go more quickly than we think. Dr. Lindeman mentioned many available grants and said the Town of Melbourne Beach is very marketable. In

conclusion, he said there are about 25 cities in the state that have sustainability plans and about 80% of the information in each plan overlaps.

Mayor Simmons asked about the availability of F.I.T. interns who could help Melbourne Beach with the project. Dr. Lindeman answered in the affirmative saying that three students are available who have capstone projects (*A **Capstone Project** is a two-semester process in which students pursue independent research on a question or problem of their choice, engage with the scholarly debates in the relevant disciplines, and-with the guidance of a faculty mentor-produce a substantial paper that reflects a deep understanding of the topic.*) that could be fulfilled by working on a sustainability project with the Town. One student in particular is a Civil Engineering major with a minor in Sustainability and she may be a good fit. His suggestion is that we start by determining our priorities. A lot of the hard work has been done and there are a lot of available resources.

Vice Mayor Davis said we would be foolish not to utilize Satellite Beach's plan so we wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel. We are also lucky that F.I.T has resources we can utilize.

Commissioner Quarrie is all for sustainability but she's concerned about implementation and the budget.

Commissioner Hoover said the City Manager of Satellite Beach led a lot of the initiatives for the project and we can't rely on volunteers to spearhead a project of this magnitude. Mayor Simmons said that the Commission would have to get involved at some point and asked for clarification regarding potential Sunshine Law issues.

Dr. Lindeman said EAB could have a mission covering the years 2018-2022, for instance. After four months, they'd be able to assess where they are and what they need going forward.

Curtis Byrd and Kelli Hunsucker, members of EAB, both liked the idea of having F.I.T. intern(s) come to their meetings to share some of their ideas. With that help and Satellite Beach's plan, the Board could then establish short term followed by long term goals beginning with low hanging fruit.

Mayor Simmons said Satellite Beach's plan has short term and long term goals. Some of the long term goals may never be realized but they are there in front of them and maybe someday they will be addressed. He'd like to restrict the use of styrofoam, straws and plastic bags on Town property for Founder's Day and to extend those restrictions, down the road, to all Town property for facility rentals, etc.

Karen Wade
Rethink Energy Brevard

Ms. Wade said she is part of a group that's forming a coalition to come up with a plan enabling those on sustainability boards to share information and resources. She mentioned the entities currently involved with the project and stated that the goal is to put together a plan where they can have representation from sustainability boards to provide resources and support.

Commissioner Quarrie asked if we could tackle easier projects first but also put larger projects on a timetable so we can get a feeling of accomplishment but not lose sight of long term goals. There was general agreement among the Commission members regarding her suggestion.

An EAB member, Christina Keshishian, asked if there is anything at the state level that prohibits banning the use of straws, plastic bags, styrofoam, etc. Mayor Simmons answered that there aren't any restrictions for Town facilities. Ms. Keshishian said maybe we could incentivize others not to use those undesirable materials. Mayor said we could do that.

Bo Platt
Surfriders, Local Native Plants Society

Mr. Platt said the two groups above would be happy to work with Melbourne Beach to provide some labor, etc.

Curtis Byrd said that he is attending the sustainability meeting in Satellite Beach the following evening and he hopes to get some ideas from the experts. Dr. Lindeman, who will also be in attendance, said he is going to encourage cities to tailor plans to their needs and that there is a lot of room for creativity. He mentioned an incredible resource called ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Mr. Byrd said that developing a plan will take time and the EAB members all have families and jobs. He would like some support from the Town and asked Dr. Lindeman if he has an intern who could write the plan with input from the Board. Dr. Lindeman responded that he has students who can start attending EAB meetings (held on the fourth Wednesday of every month) and they could volunteer during the summer. The Mayor added that we could commit some Town staff time. Also, the Town Commission would want to review the plan at regular intervals.

Commissioner Quarrie said she would be fine with EAB doing a general outline and then at a joint meeting, we could discuss priorities.

Mayor Simmons said he recruited Bruce Morgan to join EAB adding that non-residents can be on the Board. EAB is down one full member and two alternates.

Commissioner Hoover said we can take baby steps; any action is better than no action. He suggested reviewing Satellite Beach's plan and extract from it what works for Melbourne Beach.

EAB member Kelli Hunsucker asked if a representative from the Town could come to their meetings to keep them on track regarding the Town budget, local restrictions, etc. Mayor Simmons said he would be happy to attend though we need to find out how much he would be able to participate. The Commission would ultimately have the final word.

Commissioner Quarrie suggested a grass roots effort to get business owners not to not use plastic utensils and plastic bags.

Vice Mayor Davis suggested that EAB educate people by way of seminars, pamphlets, etc., and the Town would probably be able to fund those efforts. Mayor Simmons said we also have a facebook page, the Beachsider and the Beachcomber. EAB also has their own facebook page. Dr. Lindeman said the sustainability meetings in Satellite Beach were widely advertised. They would have a 15 minute presentation prior to the meeting that would attract a wide range of people; EAB could do the same thing.


Town Manager Daniels announced that he would be attending the EAB meetings.

VI. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Davis made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Quarrie. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

ATTEST:



James D. Simmons, Mayor



Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk