



City of Doral Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 22, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Doral Government Center
1st Floor Multipurpose Room
8401 NW 53rd Terrace
Doral, FL 33166

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Board Members

Cesar Abarca, Chair	Present
Katty Acon, Vice-Chair	Present
Diego Moreno, Secretary	Absent/Excused
Alejandra Paez, Board Member	Present
Gina Romero, Board Member	Present
Fernando Da Silva, Board Member	Present

Also, Present:

Dulce Pantaleon, Public Works Department
Kenneth Soler, CRP

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments:

No comments.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the June 13, 2024 meeting minutes made by the board. By consensus, the motion passes unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS CONSENTED AGENDA

a) Highlight on UF – City of Doral Project approval – Councilwoman Maureen Porrás EAC Liaison.

- The chairman, Mr. Cesar Abarca, informed us that the EAC Liaison, Councilwoman Maureen Porrás could not attend due to other commitments.

b) City of Doral Arborization Plan – Kenneth Soler CRP

- Kenneth Soler informed that the “Doral Arborization Plan” has two tree groups, and the “Adopt Tree Program” is a different Arborization Plan. In the next EAC meeting on October 10, 2024, she will make the presentation with all the details of the “Doral Arborization Plan”.

c) Watrwell in Doral Park Presentation – Rachel Streitfeld.

- Mrs. Rachal Streitfeld made the presentation of the system Watrwell, and indicated:

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:

- Community Hydration: The body needs to achieve hydration, daily. Electrolytes help the body metabolize hydration more efficiently. Our wells support community wellness by offering people electrolyte enhanced hydration and immunity in moments they need it most. Users will be able to access wells in public for 3 free dispenses daily, as well as private locations.
- Community Wellness: The body does not produce vitamin C, but rather depends on external consumption for it. Additionally, in order to give the body the best chance to stay strong, people must consume vitamin C daily. Our wells encourage community wellness by offering people hydration and immunity in moments they need it most.
- Public Safety: Each well incorporates a camera, that will record surrounding activity 24 hours a day. This supports the community plan for public safety, as we are able to share footage in the event of a criminal occurrence.
- Park Recreation Enhancement: We aim to collaborate with local influencers and professional athletes to work in concert with the city to provide unique experiences to engage the visitors of the parks at City of Doral.

BENEFIT FOR DORAL:

- Increase water access at no cost to residents

- Increase water access with no impacts to City budget
- Potential revenue generator for Doral
- Installation & maintenance paid for by WATRWELL
- High-Performance drinking water for those who want it
- Reduce single-use plastics
- 24/7 monitoring ensures cost efficiency and system efficacy
- Solar powered
- Doral is leading an sustainability

WELL FEATURES:

- Contactless Digital Dispensing
- Water Purification + Enhancement
- Vitamin Enhancement
- Administrative Control
- Digital Infrastructure
- Water Consumption Measured
- Immediate Reporting
- Cameras = Public Safety

Mrs. Rachal Streitfeld request pass a resolution recommending to the City Commission that it approve an agreement with WATRWELL to install WATRWELLS in City parks and City-owned facilities, such agreement to be based on terms deemed favorable to the City Manager or his designee.

In this regard, Cesar Abarca made a motion to approve move forward subject to compliance with legal, technical and health standard and requirements that ensure the viability and human consumption. **All the members approve in favor.**

d) **Creating a Community Garden –Ashley Gutierrez-Rodriguez**

MDC student, Ashley Gutierrez-Rodriguez, gave a presentation on establishing a community garden in the City of Doral. She highlighted the benefits of bringing people together to grow plants, share knowledge, and strengthen their connection with the environment. The garden would welcome residents of all ages, fostering interaction and community bonding.

Ashley followed to outline the objectives of this initiative, promoting environmental awareness, community engagement and youth education. This initiative would also promote gardening workshops, water conservation and eco-friendly practices. She also discussed the possibility of bringing a children's program to teach them about plants, insects, and the importance of environmental stewardship. A ledger of possible costs for project was provided to

the board in the amount of \$1580.00 which included material cost, plants and some equipment tools.

7. Open Discussion

Vice-Chair Mrs. Katty Acon gave a presentation on the importance of creating a community garden, outlining a timeline and emphasizing the mission of building a long-term, sustainable space that educates and unites residents while benefiting the environment.

She highlighted the critical role of budgeting and potential funding sources, including grants from the National Recreation & Park Association, Open Space Florida Forever, and donations from the City, local nurseries, botanical gardens, and corporations. Doral Glades Park was mentioned as a potential site, pending evaluation by the Parks and Recreation Department for suitability.

Additionally, Mrs. Acon emphasized the importance of expert assistance, citing Barbara McDaniel, a specialist in the Urban Horticulture Program at the University of Florida/IFAS/Extension Miami-Dade County and contributor to the New York Restoration Project. She also acknowledged the assistance our own City of Doral expert professionals, Christina Carmona, Nature Conservation Coordinator, and Erin Sullivan, Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Doral.

Mrs. Acon followed to introduce, Barbara McDaniel, Urban horticulture Program Specialist of University Florida who crafted a compelling presentation on "Community Garden Ideas for Doral" and indicated that this initiative builds food for communities in neighborhoods, and provides access to healthy produce while raising agricultural awareness. She gave a detailed step by step procedure to elaborate this project.

The idea is to take advantage of small areas of land in the parks managed by the City of Doral to start this initiative with the help of the expertise of the above mentioned professionals. This concept is scalable depending of the space available. Vice-Chair, Mrs. Katty Acon will be the sponsor of this initiative.

Future expectations: Integrate the "Composting Program" with the "Community Garden Initiative" as well as incorporating school Gardening programs which help educators and students better understand the food system connections, from growing produce to making healthy eating choices.

The Chairman, Mr. Cesar Abarca suggested to get site approval prior to present final project to EAC.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



P/ Diego Moreno, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024 Environmental Advisory Board Meeting made by Board Member C. ABARCA and seconded by the following Board Members:

- Cesar Abarca, Chair
- Katty Acon, Vice Chair
- Diego Moreno, Secretary
- Alejandra Paez, Board Member
- Gina Romero, Board Member
- Fernando Da Silva, Board Member

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APPROVED and ADOPTED this 10th day of October 2024.



Cesar Abarca, Chairman