

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING October 1, 2009
Final Minutes**

Members Present:

Harvey Hathaway
Patricia Lodge
Michelle Parenti
Kevin Petrovsky
Arnold Rimm
Harriet Sacher
Ira Raab, Vice Chair
Al Vazquez, Chair

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Muoio
Pat Painter
Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 4:14 pm.

Minutes

- More time was needed to review the September 17, meeting minutes. *Ira Raab made a motion to table approval of these minutes until the October 15, meeting. Michelle Parenti seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

Chairperson Comments

- Al Vazquez recognized a new member to the City Green Task Force, Kevin Petrovsky, Associate Academic Dean and Associate Professor at Northwood University

Unfinished Business

- **Sustainability and the American Diet - Michelle Parenti, MS, RD, LD/N, Registered & Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist and CGTF Member.**
 - Michelle gave a presentation (attached) on how our diet impacts the environment, due to distance food is traveling before reaching us, the types of foods we are eating, and how the food is grown and processed.

New Business

- **Urban Farm Project – Chris Bell and Dina Bell, Internatural Marketing**
 - Dina and Chris Bell spoke about the current and expected food crisis and how urban farming can meet the needs of many in a more sustainable way than the current method of industrial farming. Currently, empty urban lots could be used on a temporary basis as urban farms or community allotments to provide food for the community and get many people working in the process. Presentation attached.

Public Comments

- **Paulette Burdick, Palm Beach County School Board:** The Palm Beach County School Board implemented new policies about three years ago regarding

healthful lunches such as serving whole grains and discontinuing some items. But research shows that this will not be enough to impact childhood obesity unless they work with the greater community and parents. As a school board member, she would like to support the City's effort towards community gardens. There are community gardens in partnership with the Governor's Council at Palmetto Elementary and Manatee Elementary Schools. They would like to expand and work in partnerships and work on zoning laws to achieve these types of goals.

- **Penni Redford: October 15 Meeting** – We had planned to invite environmental organizations in the area to get their input as to what they see as the most pressing sustainability issues. However, we will not do this on October 15, as there is a conflict with a grand opening event at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and many of the environmental groups will be attending that event. We will reschedule this for a date when Commissioner Muoio is able to facilitate this discussion.
- **Charles Bantel:** Mentioned that there is a study going on called the South Florida East Cost Corridor Study. Part of the study is to determine whether or not to put in light rail on the FEC track. The FEC currently runs 28 trains a day. If light rail were put in, that number would be much higher and there would be four tracks. Charles will be keeping an eye on this. The public hearing appears to be on Oct 26th. See <http://www.sfecstudy.com/> for more information.
- **Lisa Hedge:** Palm Beach County Reef Rescue is working to have the protected are for Staghorn coral and others extended. The Town of Palm Beach is fighting it. The Federal Government would be the one to extend the protected area and it is expected to be decided in January 2010. Lisa will provide information that will be sent out by email. You can also learn more at www.reef-rescue.org. Raphael Clemente, with the DDA, is also working on this issue.

Future Meetings

- Next meeting: October 15, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery

Adjourn

- ***Ira Raab made a motion to adjourn. Harvey Hathaway seconded the motion.*** Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.