



IRL COUNCIL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2018

1:30 PM

Sebastian City Council Chambers, 1225 Main Street, Sebastian, FL

Attendance:

Ken Grudens, Katie Tripp, Heather Stapleton, Cynthia VandeVoorde Hall, Billy Rotne, Frank Catino, Mike Coneen, Gary Ritter, Billy Gibson, David Brigida, Jim Moir, Becky Bruner, Zack Judd, Kathy Hill, Frank Sakuma, Blair Englebrecht.

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Frank Catino called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2. Agenda Revisions

None.

Agenda Item 3. Minutes Approval

Approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4. Introductions and Updates

Members introduced themselves. No updates or announcements were given.

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item . Old Business

a. Small Grants Program

Kathy Hill updated the members that the Small Grants RFP was available. She requested assistance from the group in helping to promote the availability of the program in order to get a good pool of applicants. Kathy will resend the email notice about the program that can be circulated.

Several members had questions about the program:

- Has the Program heard anything from the community about the Small Grants program? Very little thus far.
- Can businesses and HOAs apply? Yes.
- Are funds strictly for operation costs, not salaries? Yes. The Program is planning to issue awardees a purchase order that they may use.

b. Lagoon Listening Meetings

Heather Stapleton reviewed the Indian River County CAC meeting held the previous day to discuss planning for the local Listening Meeting. This will take place on February 13, 2018 at Indian River School Board in Vero Beach from 6 – 8 p.m. The meeting format will be:

- Panel, consisting of CAC members, IRLNEP Executive Director, and local experts who can address questions from the audience pertinent to local conditions in the lagoon.
- Presentation about current conditions in the IRL, What the IRLNEP is and what it is doing to protect and restore the lagoon. Included will be mention of small grants availability.
- Directed Questions will be asked of the audience and data will be collected on easel pads placed around the room. After data is collected, the audience will vote on their priorities.
- During the last 1/2 -hour, an open Q and A session will take place.

Goal for the meeting will be to collect data about public perceptions about the IRL and what kinds of things they may need to become more lagoon-friendly.

Advertising and promotion of the meeting:

Social media (Facebook and Twitter), CAC marketing of flyer and circulation of email message with announcement; press release; potentially can do a Facebook Live posting of the meeting.

Kathy will reach out to CAC members in each county to plan a local CAC meeting and settle on dates, times and locations. We will publicly notice these as meetings to keep to Sunshine requirements.

Jim Moir suggested February 21 may be a good date for the Martin County CAC meeting. He is working with Rivers Coalition to see if a CAC meeting can be substituted for one of their regular meetings. He will inform us about confirming.

Staff requested members submit names for anyone who may be interested in joining the CAC as a member. They will collect the suggestions and submit to Board of Directors for further action and appointment.

Agenda Item 7. New Business

a. CAC Events and Activities

Kathy Hill opened discussion with the members about broadening the role of the CAC within the IRLNEP. She offered that within the framework of all 28 NEPs, their CACs have a number of different directions they have taken. Some do recreational events, some do restoration events and volunteer workdays, some have speakers' bureaus, and some are heavily involved in program management. The group was asked to discuss and think further on where they see the IRLNEP CAC moving toward as the program matures.

Heather Stapleton asked what things the program may need from the CAC. Discussion followed about potentially manning tables at public events; developing partnerships (IRLAP, Brevard Zoo, Etc.) to conduct restoration events; a speakers' bureau to help multiply the Program's reach into the community; sharing program materials as they are developed, generating contacts, holding local CAC meetings within each county once per quarter in advance of a regularly scheduled CAC meeting that will bring everyone together. Report-outs at regular CAC meetings from each county can provide insight as to which local issues are resonating in which counties and help target communication efforts and public education. Staff would like to see the CAC become a 2-way communication conduit to communities.

Agenda Item 8. IRLNEP Executive Director Update

Frank Sakuma gave an update on the other RFPs that have been released for Science and technology, restoration, outreach and engagement, and coastal resiliency planning.

Agenda Item 9. Final Comments

Discussion regarding whether the CAC would like to maintain its own Facebook page. Will discuss further at a later date.

Agenda Item 10. Adjourn