



Town of Southwest Ranches Zero Waste Advisory Board Minutes

January 7, 2025

7:00 pm

Board Members

Rose Allbritton, Rick Conrad, Debbie Green,
Harold Gubnitsky, Alessia Martinez

Council Liaison

David Kuczenski

Staff Liaison

Dan Stewart

Members present:

Rose Allbritton
Rick Conrad
Debbie Green
Harold Gubnitsky

Council present:

Jim Allbritton
Bob Hartmann
David Kuczenski

Members absent:

Alessia Martinez

Others present:

See attendance sheet

Staff present:

Debra Ruesga

Call to order at 7:03 PM

Brianna from Representative Bartleman's office let us know that we should let the office know if we would like Representative Bartleman's support or to speak at an event.

The Zero Waste Advisory Board is required to hold board elections for this new year.

Debbie Green motioned to nominate and elect Harold Gubnitsky for Chair. Rick Conrad seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rose Allbritton motioned to nominate and elect Rick Conrad for Vice Chair. Harold Gubnitsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rose Allbritton motioned to nominate and elect Debbie Green for Secretary. Harold Gubnitsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The members present reviewed the minutes of the December 2024 meeting.

Rose motioned to approve the December 2024 minutes. Rick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Emily joined us via phone to for grant opportunity discussion. A lot of cities and Towns have started compost pilot programs. Hollywood, Deerfield, and Coconut Creek are a few. They are doing it through partnerships. Emily has looked at different funding means such as USDA, EPA, and Thriving Community. Steps need to be taken before the Town is able to apply for many funding opportunities. The Town needs to adopt policies, and address zero waste initiatives in the Comp Plan, and the Town's strategic plan. A lot can be done with in-house planner and administration. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. We can take from some of the

policies that already exist in other agencies. WM sends us monthly education on recycling and composting right. Problem with Grants is that they are mostly federal funds and the Town of Southwest Ranches is too small. However, we could look to the County to apply as a group, which would make the application stronger. Deerfield Beach received a grant from USDA. We need to have policies in place to support a strategic plan. Chair asked Emily to share with us some of the Deerfield principles and help let us know what direction we should go in.

Rick Conrad motioned to publish the below bullet points in the February Newsletter and for Debbie to coordinate with Town staff for the article to be included in the Town's February Newsletter. Rose Allbritton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Town formed the Zero Waste Advisory Board to assist in developing programs to help our residents in keeping the rural lifestyle of our community and advise the town council on how we can implement positive ideas regarding sustainability.

The board is reviewing policies and ordinances from other municipalities.

The board is looking at creative and engaging ways to educate the residents about Zero Waste practices.

Zero Waste initiatives focus on ways to divert solid waste from landfills, incineration, and waste-to-energy.

We welcome participation from all Town residents. We meet monthly and is included on the Town Calendar.

Zero Waste Consultant RFP to follow in line with the grant writing and initiatives. Russell, Christina, and Dan will start with draft scope of work based on our discussions and will be brought back to this board in February.

Members requested to come up with creative fun ideas for a Town-wide contest to somehow tie to zero waste education.

The chair congratulated the board members.

Broward Sierra Club and Audubon Earth Day celebration on March 23rd, 8:30-4 Steve Breitkreuz and Richard Ramcharitar are presenters at the event.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.