Town of Southwest Ranches
Zero Waste Advisory Board
Minutes

October 6, 2026
7:00 pm

Board Members	Council Liaison	Staff Liaison
Rose Allbritton, Yessenia Bolano, Linda Flack, Debbie Green, Harold Gubnitsky Jessica Hartmann	David Kuczenski	Jenny McCarty

Members present:
Rose Allbritton
Yessenia Bolano
Debbie Green
Harold Gubnitsky
Jessica Hartmann

Members absent:
Linda Flack

Staff present:
Kathryn Sims
Jennifer McCarty

Council present:
David Kuczenski
Bob Hartmann
Steve Breitkreuz
Gary Jablonsky
Jim Allbritton

Others present:
Ruth Abbe
Amanda Waddle

Call to order at 7:02 PM

The members present reviewed the minutes of the September 2026 meeting.

Jessica motioned to approve the September 2026 minutes. Yessenia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ruth Abbe started the meeting off looking at the Zero Waste Plan Elements. Reviewing the Stakeholder Engagement, Zero Waste Strategies (including the Ambassador Program and other suggestions of the ZWAB), Impacts, Implementation, and Local/Regional Composting Site Evaluation.

Stakeholder engagement meetings lead by Richard Ramcharitar in regard to the Broad Wing property as possible land to develop to be used as compost facility. Invited Dustin from Filthy Organics to get his feel thoughts on if it could be suitable land to be used. There are grant opportunities out there to develop this property. After meeting with staff, he found that there are some hurdles to overcome. This is a potential site, but we should explore if there are other town owned property or private property (such as nurseries) with potential sites. Question came up in regard to food scraps; is it possible to send our food scraps to the Broward County upcoming site. Dustin said he can only accept yard debris, not food scraps. Dustin can process yard debris at the landfill nearby Southwest Ranches and then use some of the yard debris to add to property with food scraps to optimize and to produce fine soil and possibly become a revenue stream for the Town. We should engage with WM to see where there could be some cost savings with disposal of the collection of yard debris at the landfill near the Town. Discussed continuing the yard debris pickups as is, but highly reduce the amount of white item bulky items. The regional plan is looking to separate out yard debris from white item bulk. The board expressed interest in pursuing this opportunities. Council was

agreeable as well. We all agree that education is critical. In regard to recycling education we should piggyback on the Broward School Board's curriculum, but our budget monies should go more towards the yard debris and composting. We asked Ruth to get back to us with what content we get for our budget, (low, middle and high) to come up with a proposed budget amount.

Board has consensus of the name for the Town's Zero Waste Plan - Rural Roots Resource Plan

Staff was asked to coordinate with WM to schedule a monthly weekday at 5pm tour.

Jessica prepared an outline of an Ambassador Program. Five month program to run from January to May. First thoughts for programming; January - Town/Environment, SWR Parks fieldtrips, Flamingo Gardens, Native Gardens (ask December), Farmers Market booth. February – focus on sustainability, Filthy Organics field trip, composting education, March - sneaker impact field trip, April – Council to speak, field trip a Council Meeting, May – leadership and final project presentation. Requirements would include 5 classes, two full day of composting booth, 3 field trips.

Executive Committee Update – Mayor shared that Broward SWA is building a curriculum with the school board. We should look to that and not reinvent the wheel.

Consensus is to coordinate and schedule a tour at Sneaker Impact on a Saturday

We discussed moving the meeting location for the ZWAB November meeting to the Rolling Oaks Barn, if we are not able to meet at Town Hall due to it being Election Day.

Winner of the District Recycling Contest for Q2 – District 2

The board discussed the bullet points below to be included in the November Newsletter

District Recycling Contest – keep up the good work

WM Recycling Center Tour being scheduled at 5pm

Ambasador program to start in January

Zero Waste Plan named The Rural Roots Resource Plan

Sneaker Impact update

Broward Solid Waste Authority – Education tile link

Look for our Zero Waste Advisory Board Tile on the Town's Website

For next meeting: Focus on working with consultants, ambassador program

Debbie shared that at the Farmers Market on October 25th will include a plant and sustainability theme and invited vendors and asked us to be there to help with zero waste education.

Kathryn brought up at the Farmers Market on November 29th they are looking to have a space for some booths for garage sale and zero waste education.

Ranches Academy is October 14th and 21st from 6-9pm.

Councilman Bob Hartmann shared that this will be his last meeting as a council member. This board makes him very proud and the difference we can make for the future. We will have his continued support.

The September 11th event was a successful and meaningful event.

The first Ice Cream Social of the Town's veterans group was held.

Next meeting – November 3, 2026

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.