

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
February 3, 2026

Environmental Advisory Board Meeting on February 3, 2026, was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Tewari.

Present: Chair Tewari, Vice Chair Creighton, Members Naigur, Smith, Rimarachin, Lewis, Cordova, Stephens, Bonilla and Marcos.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Staff Liaisons Mark Gomes, and Bobbi Williams, Assistant City Attorney Susannah Nesmith, and Board Secretary Marlene Graham.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Tewari called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DECLARED.

Board Secretary Graham called the roll and declared a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

The motion to excuse absence was made later in the meeting in case there were late arrivals who were not present during the recorded roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes of December 2, 2025, board meeting with amendments pertaining to the capacity of the recycling facility at 270,000+ tons a year. Members approved the minutes with corrections regarding micro planting activities and recycling facility capacity; description was added about the Microhabitat Planting Event that took place on November 6, 2025 and was attended by Member Stephens at Waste Management facility and reported to the board.

Member Lewis attended the November 21, 2025 Commission Meeting and spoke on the Broward Sierra Group Junior Team's recognition for their contributions and leadership promoting sustainable, greener school communities.

- **Motion** was made by **Member Naigur**, seconded by **Member Bonilla**, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025 Environmental Advisory Board meeting with changes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LIAISON

Liaison Mark Gomes gave his report. He discussed site plan alignment with sustainability goals and shared updates on city communications. He spoke about the Sustainability Corner of the Spotlight newsletter publication and encouraged board members to submit their ideas by email to the staff liaison team who are gathering ideas for the next edition of the Sustainability Corner of Spotlight Newsletter which publishes six times a year.

Hazardous household waste events are scheduled throughout the year, with participation data from previous events shared.

Community Engagement -The board highlighted a recent community event focused on sustainability, engaging residents and promoting board membership.

Environmental Concerns - Discussions included environmental concerns related to North Perry Airport and the need for lead emission screenings. New legislation aims to restrict building incinerators near neighborhoods, addressing environmental impacts and public health concerns.

Great Yards Award-Environmental Advisory Board discussed considerations for native Florida plants in the Great Yards award evaluation. Previous judging process involved site visits, which are no longer conducted by the board. Assistant City Attorney Nesmith said that the Sunshine Law made group site visits to see yards nominated for potential awards problematic. Board members would have to go individually if they wanted to evaluate yards for award nomination.

New Initiatives-New initiatives aim to improve community involvement in litter control and neighborhood upkeep.

Community Outreach - Staff Liaison Williams spoke about the ArtLit event she attended on January 10, 2026, at the southwest Regional Library on Sheridan Street. The Procurement and Sustainability Department joined with the Recreation Department to staff an outreach tent at the event on behalf of the City. She described the plant workshops and kids' activities. The theme of the event aligned with sustainability messaging for effective community outreach on the environment. Ms. Williams said a few residents expressed interest in the Environmental Advisory Board. The board currently has two (2) vacancies, including one in District 3, and one of the interested residents resides in District 3.

Member Stephens provided a handout on One Book, One Broward about books on the environment.

Member Naigur provided information about a Broward County Library event aligned with environmental education and sustainability, including the screening of a documentary

called “Seed-The Untold Story,” which is also available for streaming by the public through the library system with the use of a library card. Member Stephens said the library also provides the DVD of the documentary available to be checked out. She spoke about the efforts to save seeds without having to use chemical seeds made by chemical companies and sold to farms worldwide.

North Perry Airport – Lead Emission Screening RFP Update. Chair Tewari asked who would evaluate the RFP. Mr. Gomes described the process undertaken by the Procurement Department staff and evaluation committee. After recent plane crashes the County and community have been evaluating aircraft safety as well as air quality emissions on surrounding communities. Member Marcos said the County has emphasized its safety focus inside the airport instead of on the surrounding communities.

Safety Assessment RFP Update.

Community Advisory Committee-Ten (10 seats) Broward County: open for applicants to apply for two-year terms.

Waste-to-Energy Incinerator Update – Miami Dade’s Evaluation Process and regional opposition. Mr. Gomes discussed the proposed location, bidders and an upcoming Commission Workshop on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, to further explore the matter. Member Stephens and Member Smith spoke about the proposed new site and whether impact studies were being done.

PFAS Status Update – concerns about lawn care products and water treatment plant improvements.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

Procurement Department Recognition-The procurement department received an Excellence Award, highlighting successful sustainability efforts. Mr. Gomes acknowledged the hard work of his team.

The Natalie Belmonte Award is presented monthly to residents with outstanding yards, creating landscaping that enhances and beautifies the community. The November award was presented to District 3 winners Michael and Andrea Badyna, presented on December 11, 2025. The December District 4 winners were Paul and Lourdes Ackerman presented on January 7, 2026.

Coral Bleaching and Marine Protection – On December 11, 2025, a proclamation was presented to Sophia Garcia and Sofia Pestana for earning the Girl Scouts’ prestigious Silver Award for raising awareness about coral bleaching and the importance of protecting marine ecosystems.

Citywide Litter Control Services – Mr. Gomes said the contract was award to Grow Care Outdoor Solutions LLC on January 21, 2026 by Commission. Scope of work would

include landscape maintenance and litter control for city-owned properties and public rights of way.

FUTURE TOPICS:

Road-mapping for future meetings: Mr. Gomes encouraged board members to reach out to staff liaisons with ideas and suggestions for future topics. He explained that topics can be planned for specific meetings, possibly inviting subject matter experts to speak on specific matters.

Green Plan Status Update, PFAS Status update, Composting, Textile Recycling, Shredding, Reverse Vending Machines, North Perry Airport, Broward County Regional Biosolids, Recognized Sustainability Days, Explore Regional Partnerships, Glyphosate Herbicide Update.

Member Naigur asked when the city would fully engage in a recycling program. Member Rimarachin spoke about reverse recycling. Mr. Gomes said the city wants to analyze the cost of recycling so that it does not increase the costs for residents. He discussed how recycling costs per ton can be impacted by levels of contamination.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ANNUAL CALENDAR: Mr. Gomes expanded the calendar to include all city events, including those with themes aligned to sustainability. Member Naigur asked about the Easter Egg Hunt in April and whether plastic Easter Eggs had to be used. Discussion ensued about the possibility of recycling the plastic eggs.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Cordova**, to extend the board meeting to another six (6) minutes past the 7:30 PM adjournment time. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Motion** was made by **Member Smith**, seconded by **Member Stephens**, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marlene Graham, Board Secretary
City of Pembroke Pines

APPROVED: 3/3/2026