

City of Dunedin
Committee on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 8:05 A.M. by Chairman, Debby Sheldon

Attendance:

Members Present: Alan Brand, Debby Sheldon, Mary Schoonover, Patricia Blizzard, Howard Gray, Charu Leininger, Jeremy Reynolds, Vicki Love, Laurie Beaty

Members Absent: Phillip O'Neil

City Staff Liaison: Natalie Gass, Dunedin Sustainability Coordinator

Visitors: Nichole Mattheus, Michelle Birnbaum, Tracy McManus

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of August 25, 2020: (Regularly scheduled monthly meeting): Approved
Minutes of Special Meeting, September 16, 2020: Approved with the following changes: Eliminate the name Hackworth to read - Single Item Agenda, Gladys Douglas Property: Pg. 1 under CEQ members discussed the following, last bullet point to read - Jeremy Reynolds stated that the Jerry Lake property was land locked but there could be a type of easement to access the lake. Pg. 2 under Discussion, first Discussion bullet to read - Howard commented on an earlier discussion that Gladys Douglas had always wanted the property to remain a nature preserve and had that been her wish, she had years to act upon her wishes through her will. He is also concerned that the county had under appraised the property by 700% for years and that the county had missed out on considerable tax revenue over the years. Pg. 2, 8th bullet to read - Jeremy amended his motion: CEQ is giving direction to Natalie to communicate our support for working with the County in a fiscally responsible manner toward the purchase of the Gladys Douglas property. Motion passes unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- **Environmental Advocate / Green Scene Applicants:** Pat reminded us that there would be no school award this year. There were six applications to be considered under the category of businesses. Subcommittee members led a discussion about the merits of the six who had applied as follows:
 - **The HONU:** (a restaurant) Jeremy pointed out that they were the first in Dunedin to be designated Ocean Friendly.
 - **Salty Soul:** (non-profit sponsoring beach cleanups at Dunedin Causeway since 2017)
 - **Jessica Palenchar, Creator of Sustainability Made Easier:** (website, podcasts)
 - **Scone Age Bakery & Cafe:** (small business) certified Ocean Friendly

- **Suncoast Sierra Club:** (environmental volunteer organization) While not a non-profit rather a PAC this 100% volunteer driven group has a history of working with the City
- **Good Vibes Juice Co.:** (last year's winner)

After much discussion CEQ members want to establish the following categories and recognize four applicants for this year's awards: Subcommittee recommendations are:

- **Small Business: Scone Age Bakery & Cafe**
- **Environmental Partner: Suncoast Sierra Club**
- **Use of Media: Jessica Palanchar, Sustainability Made Easier**
- **Non-profit Organization: Salty Soul Foundation**

CEQ endorses the recommendations above. Certificates will be awarded during a December Dunedin City Commission Meeting.

- **Sunshine Law:** Due to time constraints Howard will defer this report and provide written comments to the City Manager.
- **DREAM:** deferred
- **Douglas Property discussion with City Manager:** Jeremy gave an overview of the process going forward. Deadline for due diligence being conducted by Pulte Homes is Oct. 17, 2020. The City Manager will call a meeting on October 20th, 2020 to discuss next steps.
- **Douglas property letter:** Vicki read a draft letter on behalf of CEQ advising the City Commission to take steps outlined in letter. A motion was made to endorse and send the letter by Jeremy, seconded by Pat. Howard and Deb reiterating their support with the provision for fiscal responsibility clearly stated. That being demonstrated within the letter, the motion passed. Vicki will present the letter in person at the next City Commission Meeting.

New Business:

- **Hope Spot Anniversary:** To appear on next CEQ agenda.
- **Composting Update:** Natalie needs another person to be certified to participate in a test run of composting bins in cooperation with the City of Clearwater. One of the visitors at this meeting volunteered.
- **DREAM Group Advisory Meeting:** Jeremy volunteered to attend.
- **CEQ Charter:** Our charter is due for review in November of this year. Having done some work on this already, Jeremy will send his suggestions to Natalie for distribution to all committee members and this will be on the October 27th agenda.
- **Committee openings:** There is one applicant already and Natalie will look for and acquire Nichole Mattheus' application from the City Clerk's office so the two vacancies can be filled. Debby encouraged committee members to look for diverse candidates to insure all residents and neighborhoods are being represented.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 A.M. by Chairman Debby Sheldon.

Upcoming Meetings:

[October 27th, 2020](#)

[December 1st, 2020](#)

All meetings start at 8:00 AM last Tuesday of the month (with exceptions).

No November 2020 meeting.

December 2020 meeting will occur on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Virtual meetings will take place as long as the Executive COVID-19 Order is in place from the Governor.

Minutes submitted by Mary Schoonover, CEQ Secretary