

APEX ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:
February 16, 2023
6:00p.m.



In-Person Meeting
Apex Town Hall Council Chambers

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Mason, Chair
John Garrison, Vice Chair
Patrick Adams
Sean Crowell
Adam Efird

Bill Jensen
Jason Maynard
Greg Reger
Katie Schaaf

Call to Order & Roll Call

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was called to order by Chair Suzanne Mason at 6:00p.m. Members present included Chair Mason, Vice Chair John Garrison, and Board members Patrick Adams, Sean Crowell, Adam Efird, Bill Jensen, Jason Maynard, and Greg Reger. Member Katie Schaaf was absent.

Councilmember Brett Gantt was in attendance. Town staff members present were Planner II Shelly Mayo, Stormwater Engineering Manager Jessica Bolin, and non-voting staff secretary Sustainability Coordinator Megan Pendell. The meeting was open to members of the public to attend in person as well as to watch via the Town livestream.

Approval of Minutes

Board member Maynard made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Garrison, and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

The Staff Secretary reminded the Board of two upcoming events: Apex EarthFest, scheduled for April 22nd, and Apex PeakFest, scheduled for May 6th. Further discussion occurred during Open Discussion.

Pre-Application Meeting: HarrisZion Recombination

The project representative for HarrisZion Recombination was Tony Holmes, homeowner. A presentation was shared by Planner II and representative Holmes shared details about the project. He mentioned that the request for rezoning impacts two lots, one of which is non-conforming to begin with; the other lot will also be non-conforming after recombination. No work is currently being done on the property. The applicant agreed to Goal 8.1.a. on the EAB Suggested Zoning Conditions list. Board member Jensen added that he hoped the applicant would consider installing solar on existing and future homes on the property. Board member Jensen made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, seconded by Board member Adams, and the motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Option 8.1: Plant pollinator-friendly flora. Provide diverse and abundant pollinator and bird food sources (e.g. Nectar, pollen, and berries from blooming plants) that bloom in succession from spring to fall. (Refer to the Apex Design & Development Manual for suggested native species).

- a. The project shall ensure that 100% of the landscaping shall be native species, which shall provide diverse and abundant pollinator and bird food sources. Special attention shall be paid to providing diverse and abundant pollinator and bird food sources, including plants that bloom in succession from spring to fall. Landscaping shall be coordinated with and approved by the Planning Department at site or subdivision review.

Pre-Application Meeting: Hunter Street Park

The project representative for Hunter Street Park was Tyler Gumpright, Apex Recreation Program Supervisor. A presentation was shared by Planner II and representative Gumpright gave details about the project. A bike track addition is planned for the Park and buffers will be most affected by this rezoning. The Town plans to remove all invasive species noted on the invasive species list referred to in the Town's Design and Development Manual. Additionally, any undeveloped portions of the site will be planted with at least 75% native species, including drought-tolerant ornamental grasses and shrubs. Chair Mason suggested adding a recommendation to accommodate bikes with bike racks. Vice Chair Garrison made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, seconded by Board member Maynard, and the motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Remove all invasive species noted on the invasive species list referred to in the Town's Design and Development Manual.
- Any undeveloped portions of the site shall be planted with at least 75% native species, including drought-tolerant ornamental grasses and shrubs.
- Install bike racks nearby the bike track area.

Pre-Application Meeting: Pleasant Park

The project representative for Hunter Street Park was Tyler Gumpright, Apex Recreation Program Supervisor. A presentation was shared by Planner II and representative Gumpright gave details about the project. Key proposed changes that require rezoning are related to wayfinding signage and the installation of a monument. Board member Jensen mentioned previous proposals for solar arrays for the Park, which were not included in this plan. Representative Gumpright agreed to look into plans for solar and report findings back to the Board. Vice Chair Garrison proposed adding condition 20.c. on the EAB Suggested Zoning Conditions list. Staff mentioned that the parking lots have already been paved and it would be unlikely that additional electric vehicle (EV) chargers could be installed. Planner II offered to double check the plans and email the Board with confirmation on EV charger capabilities. Vice Chair Garrison made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, seconded by Board member Jensen, opposed by Board member Adams, and the motion passed.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Option 9.1: Plant deciduous shade trees on southern side of buildings.
 - To improve energy efficiency, a combination of large and small deciduous shade trees shall be planted on the southern side of any buildings.
- Option 10.1: Plant pollinator-friendly flora. Provide diverse and abundant pollinator and bird food sources (e.g. nectar, pollen, and berries from blooming plants) that bloom in succession from spring to fall. (Refer to the Apex Design & Development Manual for suggested native species).
 - a. The project shall select and install tree, shrub and perennial species with special attention to providing diverse and abundant pollinator and bird food sources, including plants that bloom in succession from spring to fall.
- Option 10.3: Increase the number of native tree and shrub species selected.
 - b. No invasive species shall be permitted. No single species of tree or shrub shall constitute more than 20% of the plant material of its type within a single development site.
- Option 11.3: Implement xeriscaping in design.

- b. The project commits to planting only drought tolerant plants. At least 75% of the plants selected shall be native. Landscaping shall be coordinated with and approved by the Planning Department at site or subdivision review.
 - c. To reduce irrigation requirements, the project shall select and plant only warm season grasses.
- Goal 20. Encourage clean transportation.
 - a. The installation of EV charging spaces shall not reduce the width of adjacent sidewalk to less than 5 feet.
 - b. EV charging spaces shall be located such that the cords shall not cause a trip hazard.
 - c. The developer shall provide 5% of all parking spaces as EV charging spaces.
- Include energy efficient lighting in building design.
 - Option 21.1: Increase the use of LEDs.
 - The exterior lighting for all multi-family and commercial buildings and parking lots will consist entirely of LED fixtures.

Open Discussion

Chair Mason circled back to the discussion regarding upcoming events, including Apex EarthFest and PeakFest. Members discussed educational topics to focus on at the events, landing on native plants, invasive species, and landscaping. Board members Eford and Maynard agreed to research these topics and come back to the Board with educational points. Board member Jensen mentioned the possibility of collaborating with the Apex High School Environmental Club. The Board agreed to spend about \$4,000 of their \$5,000 budget on four types of giveaways, which the Staff Secretary will order. She will also send an event shift sign-up form to the Board.

Adjourn

Board member Maynard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board member Adams. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m.

Minutes were approved on April 20, 2023.