

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Howard Tipton, Town Manager

FROM: Carolyn Brown, Support Services Director
Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Allen Parsons, Planning, Zoning, & Building Director

REPORT DATE: February 27, 2023

MEETING DATE: March 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Green (Environmental) Initiatives Update

Recommended Action
None, informational only.

Background

The Town of Longboat Key has a long and diverse commitment to protecting the environment and the Town's invaluable natural resources. The Town continually works to further coordinate and enhance environmental awareness along with continuing to provide proven sustainable practices to ensure the health and viability of our community. As a follow-up to the Town Commission's Strategic Planning Retreat on October 18, 2021, staff organized an internal group to coordinate, facilitate and report on actions being taken indicative of the Town's support of 'Green Initiatives'. The Support Services, Public Works, and Planning, Zoning, & Building Departments are coordinating their efforts, with Carolyn Brown appointed by the Town Manager to lead the Team, and to provide periodic updates.

This update is the third provided to the Commission and includes a brief overview that highlights some of the more recent Green Initiatives actions taken, with categories including 'Recently Completed', and 'Active, Planned or Ongoing Initiatives' that support the Town's environmental commitments. At the end of the document there is an attachment that includes 'Previously Completed Initiatives.' The various actions and initiatives have been categorized into the following broad groups:

- Shoreline Protection
- Water Quality
- Environmental/Energy Efficiency
- Infrastructure
- Educational Outreach

Recently Completed Initiatives

Shoreline Protection

- Flooding assessments in Buttonwood and Sleepy Lagoon neighborhoods have been finalized.
- Adopted a No-Smoking Ordinance (applicable at public beaches, public beach and bay accesses and public parks), September 2022.

- Continued with all ongoing initiatives (see Active, Planned or Ongoing Initiatives section).

Water Quality

- Adopted a Motorboats Prohibited Ordinance on eastern side of Greer Island, June 2022.
- Completed another Greer Island Emergency Dredge in July 2022
- Continued with all ongoing initiatives (see Active, Planned or Ongoing Initiatives section).

Environmental/Energy Efficiency

- Placed order for and received delivery of three hybrid vehicles as part of the Town's vehicle replacement plan.
- Continued with all ongoing initiatives (see Active, Planned or Ongoing Initiatives section).

Infrastructure

- Substantially completed mainland force-main pipe-lining project (lined approx. 5,500 LF of existing 20" ductile iron force main with 18" HDPE).
- Completed roadway resurfacing of roads in the Village and Jungle Queen areas to ensure resiliency of the roadway system.
- Recycled, porous rubber base and porous rubber top coat installed at the Town Center oval walkway.
- Continued with all ongoing initiatives (see Active, Planned or Ongoing Initiatives section).

Educational Outreach

- Continued processing updates to the Comprehensive Plan, including the Conservation & Coastal Management Element as part of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan batch updates (in-process).
- Continued discussions with Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) and Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) for a single level of public transit on the island.
- Scheduled Sustainability Classes and/or other learning opportunities in 2022/2023.
- Filmed a *Talk of the Town* video focusing on the bay with an interview with Dave Tomasko, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.
- Included two questions on environmental issues in the 2023 Annual Citizen Survey.
- Discussed Green Workshop(s) during Citizens Academy series.
- Highlighted Green Initiatives through Town Manager Briefs.
- Conducted an Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations and Solar Opportunities Workshop (2/22/23).

Active, Planned, or Ongoing Initiatives

Shoreline Protection

- Complete groin structure tightening project at New Pass.
- Complete Comprehensive Adaptation Plan (Sea Level Rise) Phase 4 in early 2023 (In Progress – grant awarded for \$131,000).
- Complete Greer Island Spit Management Plan. Bids received to implement first iteration of spit management plan. Work planned to begin within late Spring 2023.
- Use recommendations from neighborhood flooding assessments in Buttonwood, Sleepy Lagoon and the Village to pursue grants. Town ARPA money available to match grants.
- Partner with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) for a shoreline demonstration project at Bayfront Park and additional enhancements to Quick Point Preserve.
- Continue to work with Beach Volunteers for trash and plastics pick up (ongoing).
- Continued implementation of the Town’s Beach Management Program (ongoing).
- Confirm and develop Implementation Plan for Sea Level Rise recommendations, including pursuing external funding, working with FDOT, and incorporating matching dollars into the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (ongoing).

Water Quality

- Sea Turtle and shorebird protection monitoring (ongoing).
- Complete final approximately 900-ft. of mainland force main lining project now that easements have been acquired.
- Continue to plan and permit a redundant subaqueous wastewater line under Sarasota Bay (ongoing).
- Continued monitoring of red tide conditions when present and support clean-up efforts in conjunction with Manatee County taking lead (ongoing).
- Continue progress on Town lift station wet well rehabilitation program. Purchase Orders issued to rehabilitate wet wells at major Lift Stations A, B, and C.

Environmental/Energy Efficiency

- Evaluating the effectiveness of battery-powered blower and re-chargeable batteries associated with Town facility maintenance. (Commercial grade blowers still on back-order).
- Conduct an energy audit and develop recommendations for Town-owned buildings in FY23 (currently working through procurement process).
- Perform sea grass mitigation for projects requiring mitigation (ongoing).
- Continue to budget for the Australian Pine removal program (ongoing - \$60K each year + \$10K for Town use).
- Town installing LED street lighting along Gulf of Mexico Drive and within the neighborhoods as part of the Utilities Undergrounding Project.
- Town utility system rehabilitation (wet well, manhole, and pipe lining) to help minimize pump run times and electricity use. Also helps reduce infiltration and inflow (ongoing).

Infrastructure

- Continue to review and approve proven and practical green/sustainable construction in all future Town building construction, so that features maintain proper function and also provide a tangible benefit and return on investment aligned with Town values. (ongoing)
- Develop plans and continue to set aside funding for matching grants to implement overall Sea Level Rise recommendations for Town infrastructure. (ongoing)
- Continued work with FDOT and the Sarasota – Manatee MPO to implement the GMD Complete Streets Corridor Plan which will enhance multi-modal (pedestrian / bicycle) opportunities on the island. (in progress)
- Potential addition of rock rip-rap or other stabilizing features along Town seawalls being explored with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.
- Continued administration of Florida Building Code and Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements for the construction of resilient and flood zone elevated buildings and infrastructure.
- Continue administration of the Town Code, which includes a requirement for new construction to exceed FEMA Base Flood Elevations (BFE +1 ft. or +3 ft. in beach fronting properties).

Educational Outreach

- Process updates to the Comprehensive Plan, including the Conservation & Coastal Management Element as part of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan batch updates.
- Conduct a water conservation education program on low-flow toilets, faucets and other plumbing fixtures (Scheduled March 2023).
- Continue discussions with Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) and Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) for a single level of public transit on the island.
- Continued education and enforcement of new Turtle Protection Ordinance for the upcoming 2023 Turtle Season. (ongoing)
- Continue annual outreach on fertilizer restrictions in advance of the Summer rainy season in utility bill, website and social media. (ongoing)

Next Steps

- Incorporate any Commission comments into the Green Initiatives efforts.
- Evaluate Smart City technology that can enhance the Town's Green Initiative efforts.
- Continue to move forward with the ongoing and planned activities.
- Discuss future issues that may require budgetary action with the Commission during the FY24 Budget process.
- Prepare periodic reports to the Commission on progress with initiatives.

Staff Recommendation

None, informational only.

Attachments

- A. Previously Completed Initiatives
- B. PowerPoint Presentation (Available in Town Clerk's Office)

ATTACHMENT

Previously Completed Initiatives

Shoreline Protection

- Completed permitting for Greer Island Spit Management
- Finalized Phase 2 and 3 Sea Level Rise Study
- Provided a Phase 3 public update to the Town Commission
- Provided a public update on the Sleepy Lagoon and Buttonwood drainage/flooding assessments
- Completed Lyons Lane improvements
- Completed Phase 1 and finalizing Phase 2 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Study
- Joined the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition
- Participating in Manatee County's Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan update
- Completed the 2021 Beach Re-nourishment Project and North End Structural Stabilization Project. Also, significant dune plantings were added on the north end as part of this project.
- Coordinated with the LKB North Beach Volunteers for trash-pick up
- Updated the Town's Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance (Ord. 2021-01 adopted on July 2, 2021)
- Updated the Town's seawall ordinance to increase height requirements for future seawalls

Water Quality

- Completed a short-term / emergency dredge at Greer Island. Provides temporary improvement to Canal 1A and channel to prevent stagnant lagoon waters as well as maintaining canal access.
- Awarded an additional \$800,000 State appropriation to assist with funding the planned relining project associated with the mainland portion of the subaqueous wastewater line.
- Implemented an updated Wastewater Operations Manual to formalize wastewater system maintenance and monitoring
- Installed system flow and pressure meter enhancements to assist the Town and Manatee County in monitoring wastewater system
- Received \$1.25M in State funding appropriation to assist with re-lining the mainland portion of the wastewater line
- Fertilizer Ordinance in place, which prohibits the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus during the Summer rainy season (June 1-September 30), and requires at least 50 percent slow-release fertilizer during the rest of the year
- Monitor red tide conditions when present and support clean-up efforts in conjunction with Manatee County taking lead

Environmental/Energy Efficiency

- Budgeted in FY23 Budget for the purchase of 3 hybrid vehicles as part of the Town's vehicle replacement plan. Delivery anticipated Spring 2023.
- Budgeted for planned Energy Audit in FY23
- Battery-powered blower with re-chargeable batteries received.
- Ordered a battery-powered blower with re-chargeable batteries for Public Works to test effectiveness.
- Replacement of existing Gulf of Mexico Drive and Neighborhood Street Lights with energy efficient LED light bulbs as part of the Utilities Undergrounding Project
- Renewed contract through June 20, 2024 with Waste Management for curbside pick-up single stream recycling services
- Signed up and paid for a tennis ball recycling program for balls used at the Town's Tennis Center
- Maintained budget for Australian Pine removal program
- Implemented the new Sound Ordinance, incorporating language to encourage use of non-generator powered construction related equipment to minimize noise and other environmental impacts.
- Presented an electric vehicle charging station partnership opportunity with FPL to the Town Commission, June 2021.
- Presented research on gas-powered leaf blowers restrictions in other communities to the Town Commission, March and April 2021.
- New Fire Station No. 92 and majority of Fire Station No. 91 includes all LED lighting and energy efficient glass. In addition, new F.S. 92 also includes photo-voltaic ready conduits and breaker for potential future solar...

Infrastructure

- Completed major re-lining of Lift Station E wet well. Lift Station E carries the second highest wastewater flows from the island, second to Master Lift Station D. Preserves wet well integrity and reduces/eliminates Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) into the system.
- Installed Wa-Stop valves in the Village and Sleepy Lagoon areas to help mitigate bayside back flow into low lying neighborhoods
- The new Fire Station 92 plans and proposed finish floor level were reviewed by our Sea Level Rise consultant prior to construction to make sure it is was properly raised to meet the anticipated future life of the building

Educational Outreach

- Added a Green (Environmental) Initiatives web page to the Town's website
- Provided education and enforcement of the recently updated Turtle Protection Ordinance
- Completed annual outreach on Fertilizer Ordinance requirements and commercial registration for fertilizer applicators
- Conducted a public update on the impacts of the new FEMA flood maps in FY22
- Participated in the Earth Day program in FY22 at Longboat Island Chapel

- Filmed a *Talk of the Town* segment on Sarasota County Transit System
- Provided citizen awareness in 2022 on the Town's recycling program via social media
- Scheduled a Sustainability Class in partnership with Sarasota County on EV Vehicles
- Produced a *Talk of the Town* segment on Vertical Oyster Gardens in partnership with Manatee County
- Two Green Living Workshops conducted in Spring 2020
- Green Initiatives program was presented during Citizens Academy series
- Green Initiatives program was highlighted during IntroLBK series
- Utilized Town Manager Briefs to highlight initiatives

End of Agenda Item