



MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER
ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (ETF)
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
August 25, 2025
6:00 PM

ROLL CALL:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Status (X or empty box), Name, Status (X). Rows include Chair Willie Puz, Vice-Chair Christina Akly, and Members Beth Summers, Jill Watson, Taylor O'Hara, Kara Kreuger, and Nathan Shemella.

Staff Liaisons: Eddy Akpoji, Senior Natural Resources Coordinator
Ashley Reeves, Natural Resources Coordinator
Stephanie A. Thoburn, Asst. Director of Planning and Zoning

CITIZEN COMMENTS

All non-agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak is asked to go to the podium and state his/her name and address for the record. The Task Force will not discuss these items this evening.

None

MINUTES

Approval of the June 23, 2025 ETF Meeting Minutes [Attachment 1]

Motion to approve by member Akly. Seconded by member Kreuger.

Table with 8 columns: Puz, Akly, O'Mahoney, Summers, Watson, O'Hara, Kreuger, Shemella. Row 1: Abstain, Yes, Abstain, Yes, Yes, Abstain, Yes, Yes.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

- 1. Introduction of new Task Force member Taylor O'Hara

Chair Puz welcomed member O'Hara to the Environmental Task Force and asked her to introduce herself.

Member O'Hara introduced herself and her environmental background.

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2. Presentation from CJ McCartney – Creating Nature-Inspired Habitats for Public and Private Spaces

CJ McCartney, master gardener at Ann Norton Sculpture Garden, introduced herself and presented on utilizing Florida native plant material in both private residences and public owned spaces. She also spoke about the exotic species of milkweed, which is causing birth defects in Monarch butterflies.

Staff asked about newer pesticide technology that targets specific pests. Ms. McCarthy stated that she chooses not to use any pesticides on her wildflower projects.

Member O'Mahoney asked the group if there's been any luck in getting rid of iguanas, since iguanas have been eating native plantings at project sites. Ms. McCarthy suggested planting Muhly grass and Elliott's Lovegrass around wildflower areas since iguanas don't like grasses.

Several Task Force members asked how to differentiate between the native and non-native species of milkweed, and what can be done to spread awareness about the disease that is spread by the nonnative milkweed.

Chair Puz asked staff if there were any opportunities to plant native wildflowers within Town parks as part of the Parks Master Plan Update. Staff responded that the Parks Master Plan Update is focused on the improvements to the playground equipment.

3. Sustainability Assessment status [Attachment 2]

Staff provided an update on the draft sustainability assessment and the vulnerability assessment for new members of the Task Force. The vulnerability assessment is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2025, after which it will be brought to Town Council.

Member O'Mahoney questioned when the sustainability assessment would be brought to Town Council. Staff responded that there is no date set for the sustainability assessment to be brought to a Town Council meeting.

Chair Puz asked if the replacement of the raw water main detailed in the draft sustainability plan provided an opportunity to utilize reclaimed water, and what could be done during the development of the Center Street Redevelopment Overlay Area (ROA) to help alleviate flood impacts to this area. Staff responded that the Planning & Zoning Department is hosting several public input workshops regarding the Center Street ROA and that drainage concerns have been brought up during the process.

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4. Staff Updates

a. North Delaware Exotic Removal

Staff provided an update on the completion of the North Delaware Exotic Removal project. Minor work is still being done on the property, and staff has reached out to the Jupiter Community High School (JCHS) horticulture program to start growing some native plantings for the property.

Chair Puz asked what the development options are for the property. Staff responded that the property is zoned Conservation, so passive uses such as a park or natural area are options for the site.

b. Sims Creek Preserve

Staff gave an update on the Sims Creek Preserve project. The contract for construction was approved by Town Council and staff is working on getting the contract executed and expecting construction to begin by the end of the year.

Chair Puz noted that permeable pavers are being utilized for the Sims Creek Preserve project, and that the Town should set an example for the Town and utilize permeable pavers more in Town projects. Member O'Mahoney explained that the material beneath the permeable pavers and installation method is important to ensure proper drainage.

c. Sawfish Bay Park

Staff provided an update on the Sawfish Bay Marine Restoration project. Town Council approved a contract for design and permitting of Phase III of the project, including improvements to the seawall, living shoreline improvements, and a flushing channel.

d. Boards & Committees Volunteer Luncheon October 3, 2025

Staff notified the Task Force of the upcoming Boards & Committee Volunteer Luncheon.

5. Task Force Member comments

Member O'Mahoney asked staff and Task Force members to share any information on controlling iguana populations if there are any new developments.

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Member Watson asked if there were any updates on upcoming Centennial events. Staff responded that a paddleboard tour is coming up in October, and another panel discussion titled "Life of Jupiter Waters".

Member Kreuger asked for a brief introduction of the incumbent Task Force members. Task Force members introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their environmental background.

Chair Puz thanked staff for their hard work, and welcomed Senior Natural Resources Coordinator Eddy Akpoji to the Town.

6. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room

ADJOURNMENT

7:57pm motion to adjourn

Will B 10/27/2025