



Broward Sierra Bulletin



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December 2021

www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward • www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/> • <https://twitter.com/BrowardSierra>

(That's right, we now have a Twitter account – check us out!)

Broward Sierra Club General Meeting

Time: Thursday December 2, 2021 at 07:00 PM EST

Our presenters will be:

Vern Sible and Erik Ofengand: <https://www.350southflorida.org/>

Mary Cerulli: <https://www.climatefinanceaction.org/>

They will speak on **Divestment from Fossil Fuels**.

Vern & Erik: In this presentation we will share actions individuals can take to green their own investment portfolios as well as how to join in divestment efforts for local cities and institutions.

Mary: The Power of Public Money to Fight Climate Change: The biggest pools of capital in this country are held by public pension funds, and Florida's pension funds are no exception. In 15 minutes, I'll walk through the role of public money in climate change, the opportunity of shareholder power, and the potentially key role for Floridians in using shareholder power to push high-emitting companies to change.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO-qqT8oHtSI0zyLlZjJzQkYtXfkc-qW>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Upcoming Speakers

January 6, 2022 (happy new year!): Amy Green will discuss her book: Moving Water: The Everglades & Big Sugar.

February 3, 2022: Andrew Werthman of the Pew Charitable Trust will discuss Florida's Right Whales.

Links of the month:

<https://www.winknews.com/2021/10/24/florida-is-ditching-palm-trees-to-fight-climate-crisis/>

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/nc-salt-marshes-hold-64-093000725.html>

<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/retreat-from-the-coast-climate-scientist-warns-123614180.html>

Membership Survey

– Mae Smith, *Membership Chair*

As you know, the Broward Sierra Group is a strong advocate protecting our environment, not only in Broward County, but all of Florida, and the planet. We cannot do it without your input and help. Please let us know your concerns by clicking on this [link](#) to answer a very short survey. Thank you!



Political Committee

Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrapc@gmail.com) or Mae Smith (maesmith2002@gmail.com). Help us elect officials who will propose legislation to protect the environment and help us get that legislation passed into law!

Conservation Committee

Sue Caruso (susancaruso@gmail.com) or Dan Godston (dgbrowardsierra@gmail.com). Conservation Co-Chairs are seeking volunteers: The members of this committee shall work to preserve the natural resources and habitats of the native species of Broward County. That focus can lead to work beyond our county due to the interconnectedness of our vast watershed and human development. The duties will include bringing attention to proposed developments that are unsustainable and partnering with stakeholders to mitigate or stop such projects, working on local issues brought forth by our members, promoting community efforts that foster environmental justice and education, such as our community gardens, exotic plant removal and tabling events. Attending quarterly meetings will be required.

Communication Chair and Committee

Pamela Kondziela (paschieltz@gmail.com). Communication is vital to the success of our other committees. **Chair** – Promotes unified group messaging across all print, broadcast, social media, and IT platforms to keep the membership informed about campaigns, outings, events, and general announcements. **Committee members** - Assist communications chair in posting updates to media platforms and emails. Works in collaboration with **Media Chair**. **Training will be provided.**

Media Chair-and Committee

Pamela Kondziela (paschieltz@gmail.com). The Chair, along with the committee, will write articles for publication, send op-eds to the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald; publish articles in local city newsletters; write and publish in college newspapers; speaking engagements at local organizations (via zoom for now) to gain members and volunteers. Speak on local radio shows. Works in collaboration with **Communications Committee**.

Program Chair

Leah Weisburd (excomleah@gmail.com). An organized individual to:

- Follow up with presenters who are recommended by our members and inform them of the specifics needed.
- Keep the Speaker Spreadsheet up-to-date.
- Forward the presenters' info, in a timely manner, to our editor for the newsletter, and our IT person to post on our website.
- Send form letters (emails) to all attending our General Meetings and to those who registered but did not attend.

Membership Committee

Mae Smith (maesmith2002@gmail.com) or Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrapc@gmail.com). This committee shall collaborate with the co-chairs, reaching out to schools, organizations, clubs, etc. to introduce the audience to the Sierra Club. Recruitment is a vital part of the membership team! Increasing our membership by presenting the many ways we protect, enjoy, and explore our environment. In addition, engaging our existing membership to participate & volunteer by inviting members to get together, i.e., wine & cheese get-togethers, tea parties, garden parties, etc.

Coconut Creek Butterfly Garden Blossoms!

– Sue Caruso, *Conservation Co-Chair*

On Saturday, November 13, a year-long project came to fruition. Thanks to the hard work and planning of conservation committee co-chair, Dan Godston, the City of Coconut Creek partnered with the Coconut Creek Community Garden Committee and the Broward Sierra Group to install a beautiful butterfly garden. Mayor Becky Tooley, Commissioner Jackie Railey, and State Representative Christine Hunschofsky joined almost a dozen high school volunteers and Broward Sierra volunteers to clear, construct and install the garden. Several raised beds containing beautiful butterfly host and larval plants were strategically located thanks to the input of the volunteers. All the hard work was truly appreciated! The students have also volunteered to water the garden until the irrigation can be installed. Special thanks go out to Steve Ramanand of the Coconut Creek Parks and Recreation Department, who has worked tirelessly to help plan, make acquisitions and physically install the garden.

Help weeding, watering and pruning the garden will always be appreciated. If you would like to help, please contact: Dan Godston at dgbrowardsierra@gmail.com or Sue Caruso at susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com



Rep. Christine Hunschofsky

Election for Executive Committee (ExCom) Nominees: 12/1/2021 – 12/15/2021

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

It's that time of year again!

Our ExCom is comprised of only 7 members. This election we have 3 spots open for your consideration and for you to vote to fill our 7 ExCom seats.

From September through October 15, 2021, our Nominating Committee (NomCom), consisting of two ExCom members and one non-ExCom member, were Susan Steinhauser, Pamela Kondziela, and Leah Weisburd, who vetted and approved the 4 nominees.

The nominees are Sue Caruso, who is up for re-election, Pat Turpening, who is also up for re-election, Nick Bixler, Broward Sierra member, and Mae Smith, also a Broward Sierra member. Their bios are posted on our website for your review [ExCom Elections 2021 | Sierra Club](#)

This election we have 3 spots open for your consideration for you to vote to fill our 7 ExCom seats.

Voting by ballot runs from December 1, 2021 thru December 15, 2021 by email, and this year for the last time, by post card ballot. Our election committee (ElecCom) is also 3 Broward Sierra members: two from ExCom and one not on ExCom. They are Adriene Barmann, Max Goldstein, and Kip Fisher. They will be counting your votes, verifying them, and announcing the winners.

Now it is up to you, our Broward Sierra members, to vote for those nominees you feel will be excellent choices to serve on ExCom. If elected by you, their term will begin on January 1, 2022, for a two-year term.

Hello Stranger

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

We'd love to know you better! So, we are adding a new item to our Broward Sierra Bulletin called:

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

Don't be shy! Many of our Sierra members lead, or have led, very interesting lives, so why not share your story with us.

Please send our editor, Max Goldstein, a short paragraph or two to print in our Bulletin along with a photo of yourself.

Our December issue will be published on December 29th. The deadline for submitting articles to Max is December 17th at maxsgoldstein@gmail.com. Please put in the subject line: **Getting to know you.**

We are all looking forward to knowing our members better!

Getting to Know You is on Page 7!

Earth Day 2022

The Broward Sierra Club will be having an Earth Day event on Saturday, March 12, 2022 to celebrate 120 Years of the Sierra Club (founded 1892). It will be at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood and we're planning on a lot of speakers and tabling. We'll have more information as we get closer, but put it on your calendar!

NO private condo tower on Hollywood Public Beach

Our battle continues against a 30-story condo on our public oceanfront land, spearheaded by Cat Uden (who has apparently been running into some [free speech issues](#)).

More information on their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page and at <https://welovehollywoodbeach.com>



The proposed redevelopment project is located at 1301 S. Ocean Drive on the barrier island in Hollywood. It is public land. This approximately 4-acre site is located south of Hollywood Boulevard on A1A, at Azalea Terrace/Bougainvillea Terrace. The property currently houses the Hollywood Beach Culture and Community Center, Harry Berry Park, an outdoor stage with a shade covering, mature dunes, public restrooms, and public parking. The property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. This ocean front property was deeded to the City of Hollywood for "open space, park, recreational, and other public and municipal purposes in 1974. The Broward Sierra Club has been upfront and outspoken against the development of this open space since March of 2021 when a local Hollywood resident reached out to us to try and stop this project from moving forward.

The Related Group developers have been relentless in trying to earn support from local residents by making promises of decreased taxes and other amenities. But with the Broward Sierra Club's support under the leadership of Conservation Chair Sue Caruso and Vice Chair Adriene Barmann, along with Cat Uden, a local activist, Loxahatchee's Sierra Club Drew Martin, and Attorney's Richard Grosso and Stuart Reed, this dream team has gained momentum and support by multiple Hollywood organizations to try and stop this awful project. Our presence at multiple commission meetings, and the Sun-Sentinel articles that have educated the public about the proposed development have created a strong opposition against the proposal.

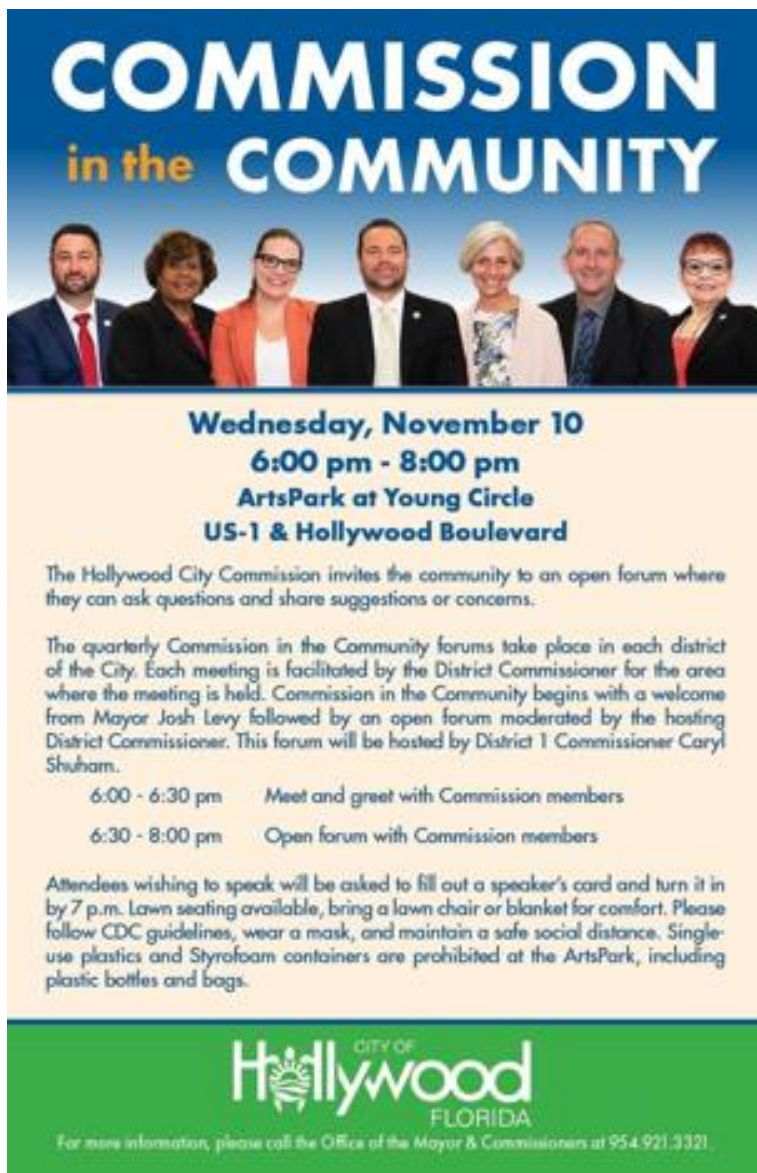
The final Commissioners meeting that was intended to answer questions from the public about the 1301 development proposal was held on Wednesday, November 10th at 6 PM at Arts Park Circle in Hollywood outside. Amidst pouring rain, and nasty weather a crowd of 200 people showed up, and most of them were against the development proposal. There were some great speakers representing Friends of Hollywood, The Hollywood Historical Society, and multiple residents who sent the commissioners a message to listen to the people whose overwhelming majority do not support this project. Adriene Barmann and Sue Caruso from Broward Sierra Club were there as well, and they both voiced their opposition to the development. In the end we will see how the commissioners will vote. But one thing they all know: the Broward Sierra Club will be watching them....



NO private condo tower on Hollywood Public Beach

Continued

This incredible inspiration for our youth happened to Hollywood's environmental advocate Cat Uden, at the Hollywood Commissioner's Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, 11/10/2021. This meeting regarded the Commission's plan to allow developers to build a condo at 1301 S. Ocean Drive.



**COMMISSION
in the COMMUNITY**

**Wednesday, November 10
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
ArtsPark at Young Circle
US-1 & Hollywood Boulevard**

The Hollywood City Commission invites the community to an open forum where they can ask questions and share suggestions or concerns.

The quarterly Commission in the Community forums take place in each district of the City. Each meeting is facilitated by the District Commissioner for the area where the meeting is held. Commission in the Community begins with a welcome from Mayor Josh Levy followed by an open forum moderated by the hosting District Commissioner. This forum will be hosted by District 1 Commissioner Caryl Shuham.

6:00 - 6:30 pm Meet and greet with Commission members
6:30 - 8:00 pm Open forum with Commission members

Attendees wishing to speak will be asked to fill out a speaker's card and turn it in by 7 p.m. Lawn seating available, bring a lawn chair or blanket for comfort. Please follow CDC guidelines, wear a mask, and maintain a safe social distance. Single-use plastics and Styrofoam containers are prohibited at the ArtsPark, including plastic bottles and bags.

**CITY OF
Hollywood
FLORIDA**

For more information, please call the Office of the Mayor & Commissioners at 954.921.3321.

“A lot of you were asking me who the boy was that up to the microphone to speak. He was a 5th grader rollerblading in the park with his friend, and he came up to me and asked me what was going on tonight. I told him that it’s “Commission in the Community”, and people who live in Hollywood can go up to the microphone and tell the mayor and commissioner things that they’re concerned about in the city and also make suggestions. His eyes got big, and he excitedly told me, “Oh, I want to do that! I have some things to say.”

I asked what he was concerned about, and he said he didn’t like that they knocked down the Bread building. I asked why. He said because that building had been there his whole life. He said he also thought that rent is too high, and we need more apartments with lower rent.

He asked his friend to take notes in his phone so he could remember what to say. He also told me a story about how he was sad that he saw a homeless person be denied a room at a motel in town, even though he showed that he had money for the hotel room. He said that wasn’t right. (What a caring kid).

I told him that residents could fill out a speaker card, and when they call your name, you can tell them your thoughts. So he did! He filled out a card, went up to the microphone, and voiced his concerns about affordable housing. Future mayor of Hollywood?”

If you would like to follow in this young man’s footsteps and use your voice for change, we would love for you to contact our local, state and federal legislators asking them to sponsor, co-sponsor and pass legislation on our top three priorities this year:

- Climate Change
- Land Conservation
- Water Quality and Quantity

You can find the information for contacting your legislators at:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/findyourrepresentative>

(this link will list ALL your legislators)

Broward Sierra Political Corner – December 2021

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*



We normally encourage our members each month to take action at the city, county, state, and federal levels, but right now we're in a **CODE RED** situation at the federal level and need EVERYONE to call their US Representative and Senators and insist that the Build Back Better Act (BBBA) be passed with every climate provision in place. Here's why ...

The infrastructure bill that just passed allocates \$47 billion to address the impacts of climate change. This is called climate adaptation. It does NOT, however, allocate anywhere near enough \$ to reduce what's causing the acceleration of climate change in the first place, most notably the burning of fossil fuels. This is called climate mitigation. The Build Back Better Act allocates \$555 billion for climate mitigation.

Call/e-mail/write/tweet Senators Rubio and Scott and your US Rep and tell them that you want them to pass the Build Back Act with all climate provisions intact because:

1. The climate investments in the BBBA put our nation on a clear path to cut pollution and carbon emissions.
 2. The BBBA will reduce families' energy bills.
 3. The BBBA will create millions of good-paying clean energy jobs and invest in communities that have historically borne the brunt of fossil fuel pollution.
 4. When passed, it will be the most significant climate investment in our nation's history.
 5. This is a **code red** moment for humanity and BBBA is our best, last chance to tackle the climate crisis and invest in our nation's clean energy future. We must LEAD on climate!
- To contact Senator Marco Rubio, click [here](#).
 - To contact Rick Scott, click [here](#).
 - To find and contact your US Representative, click [here](#).

If you have questions, please e-mail browardsierrapc@gmail.com. Thank you!

Congratulations to past Prize Winners – Bruce Weisburd and Jared Stein (x2)



“Getting to Know You”

– by (and about) our very own Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*



I have been a Florida resident in Lauderhill for over 28 years. I moved here from New York to enjoy the beauty, healthy lifestyle, and exhilarating outdoor life that Florida welcomed me to. Slowly, I witnessed much changing and not for the better. I saw trees disappearing, roads overcrowded and in disrepair, severe flooding, sewers backing up into our waterways, sea level rising, fish dying on our beaches, poor drinking water, overdevelopment of neighborhoods, and so many people not realizing how climate change was impacting and changing our cities, our Florida, and our world.

I had to do something and got involved! I joined the Broward County Sierra Club and volunteered to work on the Political Committee. Change starts with our locally elected officials, as well as our national candidates. The Sierra Club does not take a stance on any political agenda other than our environment, the effects of climate change, and protecting our endangered species. I am proud to say that our endorsed local officials are living up to their commitment to protect our environment, bring climate change reality into focus, protecting our green space, and our endangered species.

I am still working diligently with our Political Committee to combat the horrendous legislations being presented in this session of our Congress and Senate as well as endorsing legislation that favors our agenda.

This year I was elected to serve on the Broward County Sierra Club’s ExCom (executive committee), and I am proud to say I was recently elected their Chair. Our ExCom team of 7 members, and the many volunteers from our general membership of over 2,000, helps us to keep our Florida and our planet environmentally secure. This is our mission statement:

It is to **explore, enjoy, and protect** the wild places of the earth.

It is to **practice and promote the responsible use** of the earth’s ecosystem and resources.

It is to **educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore** the quality of the natural and human environment.

And to **use all lawful means** to carry out those objectives.

Bonnet House Outing

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*

The Bonnet House and Birch State Park outing on October 24th was a fantastic event!! The Bonnet House tour was so informative and all of us enjoyed learning about the Bartlett and Birch families. We enjoyed the house decor, art and seeing the gardens was so impressive. The tour guides were so full of information and were great story tellers. Our lunch in the Live Oak pavilion at Birch State Park was delicious! We had a great view of the gigantic Banyan Tree that was a perfect view from the pavilion. After lunch and a conversation about conservation and Climate Change, we took a scenic hike and then called it a great day!! See more pictures on our [Facebook](#) page.







Nature Walk at Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*



When: January 2nd, 2022, Sunday

Palm Beach County offers us two opportunities, within two miles of each other, to learn about the great diversity of wildlife that constructed wetlands attract. We'll explore the 50-acre Wakodahatchee Wetlands, in West Delray Beach and the 100-acre Green Cay Wetlands, in Boynton Beach, both are 'Birder's Paradises'. Adriene, Broward Sierra's Outing Leader, will lead a nature walk and educate our participants about both wetland preserves, and discuss the importance of wetlands and their relationship to clean water. These unique habitats support a variety of plants, birds and wildlife that have evolved and thrived.

Each location provides accessible boardwalks (3/4 mile and 1.5 mile respectively), allowing for easy viewing of birds. We expect the trip to run from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m. We ask that you bring your own lunch, which we'll break for, outdoors prior to traveling to our 2nd location Green Cay.

Wakodahatchee Wetlands (where we'll start): 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach, FL 33446

Green Cay Wetlands (where we'll end up): 12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Rated: Easy. Participant limit is 20 people.

Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Reserve your spot by registering here:

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/282096679/?isFirstPublish=true>

Any questions, contact:

- Adriene Barmann, adrienesierraleader@gmail.com, 954-328-9447.
- Max Goldstein, MaxSGoldstein@gmail.com, 954-296-3411.