

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Fort Lauderdale Fire Station 2
Third Floor Conference Room
528 NW 2nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
January 22, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2024 through 12/2024					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Sofia Thordin, Vice Chair	M	P	1	0
2	Vacant	I	-	-	-
3	Robert Daoust	II	A	0	1
4	Kelly Charles	IV	P	1	0
5	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	1	0
6	Suzee Bailey	C	P	1	0
7	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	1	0
8	Cameron Steagall	III	A	0	1
9	Jason Kirchhoff	II	P	1	0
10	Vacant	III	-	-	-
11	Vacant	M	-	-	-

Staff Present

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
 Stefan Perritano, Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison
 Benjamin Restrepo, Senior Project Manager, Development Services
 Mallory Jones, Sustainability Administrator
 Jamie Opperlee, Prototype

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A **motion** to approve the December 18, 2023, minutes as presented was made by Ms. Bailey and seconded by Ms. Thordin. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Net Zero Update

Mr. Hadwen shared that the Net Zero plan was on track. He stated the funding needed to be reallocated and that was scheduled to occur on February 6. This would allow authorization for the consultant to start work.

Vulnerability Assessment

Mr. Perritano stated that on the vulnerability assessment, the City had received the first seven (7) elevation certificates for buildings critical to City operations. He advised that the first modeling results had been received earlier showing flood risk throughout the City from storm surge, sea level rise, rain events, and compound flooding, and those could be shared with the Board in February. He noted an additional \$59,000 had been received from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the deadline was moving from March to June as a result.

Ms. Bailey asked if anyone attended the January 12 Broward County Resiliency meeting. She stated the projection numbers are changing and she wonders how that will impact the City. Mr. Perritano discussed legislation on the State level to lower the sea level rise scenarios used as inputs for modeling.

Ms. Bailey suggested that any interested Board members attend the Broward County Resiliency meetings. She noted the meetings can be attended in person or online.

Termite Outreach

Mr. Hadwen stated he had connected the Parks and Recreation Department with Dr. Thomas Chouvenec so they can coordinate a training day for City staff that interacts with trees on a regular basis. He shared that Neighbor Support Night is coming up, and staff is working on a tree giveaway which will include an education component about trees and termite awareness.

Presentations

City Parking Requirements

Benjamin Restrepo, Senior Project Manager, Development Services, provided an overview of parking in the City, including requirements in different Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and in non-RAC residential. He discussed recent accomplishments, including an exemption from parking requirements for non-residential historic properties and reductions for residential properties, and Code change to allow for mechanical stacked parking and sidewalk requirements. He noted his team had been working with Mr. Perritano on requirements and incentives for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in new development.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Discussion topics included downtown parking requirements, parking reductions, offsite parking agreements, mitigation options, parking in other municipalities, medical and restaurant parking, focus on economic development, parking-in-lieu fees, potential sustainable initiatives, mobility improvement projects, and the impact of parking on outdoor dining.

New Business

Review of 2024 Calendar

Mallory Jones, Sustainability Administrator, and the Board made a brief self-introduction.

Mr. Perritano distributed the proposed meeting dates for 2024. SAB meetings are typically scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month but due to conflicts with holidays, the April, May, and December meetings were moved to April 15, May 20, and December 16 respectively. In addition, consensus was to move the November meeting to November 18 due to Thanksgiving and to discuss a summer break at a later date.

SAB 2024 Planning

Mr. Hadwen shared a document outlining the issues previously identified and the Board discussed its current and planned topics, initiatives, and other ideas, and the Board discussed as follows:

1. Current topic list
 - a. Net-zero/Roadmap to Zero
 - b. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
 - c. Waterway Quality
 - d. Resiliency
 - e. Increasing Multi-Modal Transportation in the City
 - f. UHI Mitigation
 - g. Urban Forest
 - h. Litter Reduction
2. Planned initiatives / topics
 - a. Parking requirements (Jan)
 - b. EV Ready Ordinance
 - c. Vulnerability Assessment (initial maps February)
 - d. Net Zero Plan
 - e. Urban Forestry Master Plan
 - f. Termite Outreach
 - g. Fortify Lauderdale
 - h. Cool Roof ordinance
3. Other ideas
 - a. Building code for resiliency
 - b. Dashboard for drinking water & notifications
 - c. More EVs in City fleet
 - d. SFWMD
4. Planned topics
 - a. Jan – parking, finalize topics, elections
 - b. Feb – Waterway quality & awareness – Michael Lambrechts CCA, communication
 - c. Mar – Litter Reduction – Presentation on current trash management strategies and contracts

Mr. Perritano shared an overview of legislation currently in committee that would preempt all municipal EV-ready ordinances. He stated the City Attorney is currently reviewing the language of the City's proposed EV ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential for benchmarking against data from other cities and the potential for cooperative efforts. Mr. Perritano outlined data being compiled on the State level.

Mr. Perritano invited the Board members to share any additional topics they would like on the list. Discussion ensued as to how many topics should be listed and whether they should be ranked, and consensus was to select six (6) topics to work on.

Mr. Hadwen stated that in December, the Board had discussed having a waterway quality presentation from Michael Lambrechts in February. Ms. Bailey advised that her suggestion had not been waterway quality, but signage and awareness in areas that consistently test high for bacteria for the safety of those who live, work, and play on the waterways.

Mr. Kirchhoff clarified that Michael Lambrechts is President of the Broward Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida. Discussion continued and consensus was to keep the topic of waterway quality as broad as possible at this time.

Ms. Bailey advised that there were projects coming up related to living seawalls and oysters that she would pass information on about. She noted she may be able to bring in a speaker, as well.

Mr. Perritano asked if the Board wanted to continue with parking as a topic. Consensus was to remove the item from the list.

Ms. Thordin suggested that cool roofs and trees could both go under a broader umbrella of heat reduction strategies. Mr. Hadwen highlighted that the City was about to launch an Urban Forestry Master Planning Effort, and the consultant will be presenting to the SAB on the work they are doing.

Ms. Charles commented that landscaping could also be paired with cool roofs. Mr. Perritano suggested grouping those items under Urban Heat Index (UHI) Mitigation and keeping a separate Urban Forestry item. The Board agreed by consensus.

Ms. Bailey suggested addition of drinking water as a topic, noting the news regarding forever PFAS and forever chemicals. Discussion ensued as to whether the Board could have any impact on the topic.

Ms. Charles highlighted issues with litter around the City and stated an effort to clean up the City would also have an impact on the waterways. Discussion continued regarding litter reduction opportunities and consensus was to add litter to the list.

Ms. Charles noted that invasive species cause issues and destroy native ecosystems. Mr. Perritano advised that was more a County or State level issue.

Mr. Perritano stated he would revise the list according to the conversation and add it to the agendas moving forward.

Ms. Charles asked that a presentation on litter reduction be the March topic, and the Board agreed. Discussion continued regarding potential speakers.

Chair and Vice Chair Elections

A **motion** to re-elect David Blattner as Board Chair was made by Mr. Dutton and seconded by Ms. Bailey. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

A **motion** to re-elect Sofia Thordin as Board Vice Chair was made by Mr. Dutton and seconded by Ms. Bailey. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Old Business

None.

Comments

Ms. Charles asked about the yellow water barriers in Bill Keith Preserve. Mr. Perritano advised that they are turbidity curtains, which are used to trap sediment during construction projects.

Ms. Charles suggested taking the opportunity to plant mangroves while the curtains are in place. Mr. Perritano stated he would relay the information to Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Hadwen pulled up an article online and stated they are planning to build a dock, pier, and marina in the area. Mr. Perritano read aloud that plans for shore stabilization include the turbidity curtains, relocating rip wrap, and creating a barrier structure.

Ms. Bailey suggested the SAB ask for a requirement that any seawall project that kills oysters is required to replenish the oyster population. Mr. Perritano stated he would investigate the current requirements.

Mr. Kirchhoff asked if any City property was damaged in the recent tornado. Mr. Perritano stated it went over the grass at Merle Fogg Park, but he did not think there was any damage.

Items for Next Meeting

Waterway quality & awareness

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on February 26, 2024.