

DRAFT

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Fort Lauderdale Fire Station 2
Third Floor Conference Room
528 NW 2nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
March 25, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

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

Staff Present

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Analyst, Staff Liaison
Mallory Jones, Sustainability Administrator
Jamie Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.

Guests Present

Mark Almy, Parks Operations Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

New Board member Nicole Barnett introduced herself briefly. She stated she is a Sustainability Consultant for an engineering architectural firm and has been in Fort Lauderdale for just over a year.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A **motion** to approve the February 26, 2024, minutes as presented was made by Ms. Thordin and seconded by Mr. Steagall. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Liaison Update

Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Analyst, advised that Stefan Perritano was now working with Broward County, and she had taken over as Staff Liaison until a replacement is hired. She noted there are two (2) open positions in the Sustainability department.

ULI Panel Recommendations for Road Elevation Criteria

Mallory Jones, Sustainability Administrator, thanked everyone for their participation in the ULI panel, and stated the report would be posted when it was complete in approximately 10 weeks.

Energy Saving Trees Program Launch

Ms. Ramirez shared that the Energy Saving Trees program had been launched on March 19 with 378 trees. She provided flyers for those interested in learning more.

Presentations

Littering Prevention in the City

Mark Almy, Parks Operations Superintendent, Parks and Recreation made a presentation regarding the City's programs to address litter and litter prevention efforts. He noted the increased litter from Spring Break and stated it had gone exceptionally well, with staff in place rather than a contractor. He discussed replacement of plants that got flooded in 2023 with more sustainable materials such as rock that do not require watering or chemicals. Mr. Almy highlighted the number of parks, pocket parks, and open spaces in the City. He explained staff maintains the parks, while medians and hedges are maintained by a contractor. He commented on seaweed composting and noted \$300,00-400,000 in annual savings.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Discussion topics included campaigns against littering, litter in the Himmarshee area, "don't litter" signage, litter on private property, sidewalk cleaning, medians, stormwater drains, management of trash cans, and combination trash and recycling cans. Mr. Almy noted Parks and Recreation does not use trash bags in public waste bins. Discussion continued regarding recycling.

Mr. Steagall highlighted an issue with trash cans being thrown in the canal. Mr. Almy advised that the cans are geolocated and cemented, but they still frequently find them tipped over or cracked. He noted there are approximately \$1 million in trash cans deployed in the City.

Mr. Almy shared a brief update on the subterranean termite issue. He noted he had met with Dr. Thomas Chouvenec and discussed opportunities to keep termites at bay. He stated staff would be attending termite awareness classes in groups of 40 to teach them how to recognize, identify, and report damage.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Communication to the Commission

Chief Waterway Officer

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager, played a video of the City Commission responding to a presentation from Michael Lambrechts, President of the Coastal Conservation Association, at the March 5 Commission

meeting regarding the need for a Chief Waterway Officer in the City of Fort Lauderdale. He noted that Mr. Lambrecht presented on the same topic to the SAB at the February 26 meeting. As indicated in the Commission discussion, staff will create a job description and recommend addition of a Chief Waterway Officer position in the next budget year.

Ms. Thordin shared a draft communication she had written to ask the Commission to consider a Chief Waterway Officer. She suggested the language be edited to encourage the Commission to stay on the path identified during the March 5 meeting. The Board agreed on the following Communication language:

As the top water-related concerns of Fort Lauderdale residents¹ are drinking water quality, flood prevention, and waterway cleanliness, the Sustainability Advisory Board strongly encourages the creation of a Chief Waterway Officer position. We recognize the crucial need for a dedicated leader to oversee and safeguard the environmental integrity, accessibility, and recreational value of Fort Lauderdale's aquatic resources.

A **motion** to send a Communication to the Commission as drafted regarding the Chief Waterway Officer was made by Ms. Thordin and seconded by Mr. Steagall. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Comments

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Mr. Hadwen stated staff would be meeting later this week regarding the vulnerability assessment and staff may be ready to share the maps in April. He noted the Net Zero plan and Urban Forestry Master Plan would be launching shortly and updates could be shared in May or June.

Ms. Ramirez commented that initial feedback had been received from Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), and the City is expected to earn gold certification. She advised there were a couple of comments.

Mr. Hadwen stated staff would report on the vulnerability assessment and determine other updates as appropriate for the April meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on April 15, 2024.

¹ Findings Report: City of Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Survey (2021)