

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
MARCH 28, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 1/2011 through 12/2011	
		Present	Absent
Jon Albee, Chair	P	3	0
Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Anthony Abbate [6:38]	P	3	0
Alexandra Anagnostis	P	2	1
Jaime Castoro	P	3	0
Vicki Eckels	P	3	0
William Goetz	P	3	0
Donna Guthrie	A	1	2
Dana Pollitt	A	1	1
Rebecca J. Walter	P	3	0

Also Present

Larry Teich, Environmental Resources Supervisor
Heather Steyn, WaterWorks 2011 Public Involvement Coordinator
J. Opperlee, Recording Secretary, ProtoType, Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Albee.

2. Roll call – Introductions

Roll was called and it was determined a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 2011

The Board noted changes to the minutes.

Motion made by Ms. Walter, seconded by Ms. Eckels, to approve the minutes of the Board's February 2011 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Liaison Report

Mr. Teich announced People and Planted Day would be on April 2. He invited the Board's input on the actions items listed on the spreadsheet of the Board's Communications to the City Commission Mr. Hiteshew had created. Chair Albee remarked this would help the Board keep track of their suggestions. He remarked that gridlines or borders on the table would be helpful.

5. Member Discussion Items

- Communications to the City Commission

Ms. Eckels wanted to be sure that Board members and staff did not identify any correspondence from the Board as coming from an individual: their communication should come from the Board as a whole.

Chair Albee recognized Ms. Heather Steyn, WaterWorks 2011 Public Involvement Coordinator who was present at the meeting.

- Prioritization of initiatives

Air Quality - Ms. Anagnostis

Ms. Anagnostis stated her first priority was Reduction of GHG emissions below 1997 levels by 2015. Ms. Anagnostis stated she was working on this and would have a report for their next meeting. She was concentrating on initiative 1.2: A Statewide ban of onboard incineration on cruise ships within a specific distance of the coast. Ms. Anagnostis would report on the current policies for cruise operators and what the allowances were so they could focus on where improvements could be made. She stated incineration was not widely used at port; ships typically stopped incineration 20 miles out at sea. There were testing procedures to ensure that hazardous waste was not incinerated.

Water - Mr. Pollitt

Mr. Pollitt was not present but had provided a handout via email. His first priority was item 2.1: Expedited, continuing escalation of high-user potable water fees in single-family zoning.

Ms. Eckels agreed that the more water one used, the more one should pay. Ms. Castoro felt Code Enforcement should be used to enforce existing watering rules.

Dr. Goetz asked how the Board could know how much the initiatives would cost and if they were cost effective. Chair Albee said the Board had been asked to prioritize the initiatives based on their expertise. If there would be a need for budgeting, they could take further action. Dr. Goetz felt before the Board recommended any initiatives, they

should know what they would cost and what research supported them in order to evaluate them before presenting them to the Commission.

Mr. Abbate stated there were different ways to prioritize. One way was based on budget and expediency or ease. Another was based on what they must do to create a sustainable City. He felt these were the two most important ways to prioritize. He suggested after they determined their top three initiatives in each category, they should move into budgeting for outcomes.

Chair Albee recommended they forward their priorities to the Commission with the comment that they would study them further regarding cost and other criteria they would develop at another meeting. Ms. Alberani suggested establishing short-term, medium-term and long-term goals.

Ms. Eckels felt the Board must pare down their initiatives and get to a starting point. She stated her prioritization took into account the financial impact to the City and she felt other Board members were doing the same. After they prioritized the initiatives, the entire Board would determine how to tackle each item and move forward.

Mr. Abbate stated individual Board members were applying their own priorities to the initiatives and he felt they should approach this in a more coordinated way among all Board members and within the context of the City. He had suggested checking their priorities against the regional priorities, and Mr. Abbate thought the City's Visioning Committee could help with public buy-in. Ms. Alberani had spoken with people at the County, the City and the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and agreed they could not work in isolation. Chair Albee agreed to work with Mr. Hiteshew to coordinate the Board's efforts with other entities.

Chair Albee was concerned that the Board must develop a very specific focus to create an agenda.

Dr. Goetz stated there was no money in the budget for sustainability initiatives aside from the money that had already been allocated for the EECBG programs and City Green initiatives.

Ms. Eckels thought the City's Energy Manager, Heike Lueger from Carbon Solutions America, could help the Board understand what initiatives were actively being pursued at the County. Ms. Alberani suggested the Board provide their priorities list to Ms. Lueger and request her input. Chair Albee reminded the Board that they had already discussed inviting Ms. Lueger to their April meeting to obtain her input.

Waste - Ms. Eckels

Ms. Eckels said the initiatives had not included multi-family recycling because the Board had sent a resolution regarding this to the City Commission last January and they had believed it was underway. Since this had still not been acted on by the City, Ms. Eckels

still listed the top waste priorities as: the City should use the tools at its disposal to get the revenue from multi-family recycling; beach recycling; event recycling.

Natural Environment and Landscape - Ms. Castoro

Ms. Castoro stated her first priority was initiative 4.2: Require installation of water/rain sensors by all commercial and residential users to reduce over-watering. Second, Ms. Castoro wanted to promote no idling zones at bridges, even though this was not listed with the initiatives. Her third priority was 5.3: Limit building awards to sustainable landscaping. Ms. Castoro also wanted the watering rules to be enforced.

Built Environment - Ms. Walter

Ms. Walter stated she weighed the first three of her five initiatives equally, but the first one that should be implemented was expedited permitting for Green building, since there were no significant costs associated with this. The second priority was recycling for businesses and the third was the Green Homes and Business Revolving Loan Fund. Ms. Walter thought the City was already doing the Revolving Loan Fund, but wanted to see if it could be improved.

Education - Ms. Alberani and Ms. Guthrie

Ms. Alberani stated her priorities were 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3. She had reached out to the County, the City and other organizations to help prioritize what was already underway or initiatives for which there was existing funding for this year.

Ms. Alberani said regarding her first priority, 6.1: Develop a database for Green initiatives, the County had an EECGB grant to create this database. They had sent surveys to 31 municipalities regarding their Green initiatives.

Ms. Alberani's second priority, 6.2: Public awareness, included partnering with other organizations to see what they were doing and promoting initiatives in schools and universities. Currently, the USGBC had a Green Schools Committee and a program working with schools in Broward County. Ms. Alberani informed the Board that Smart Growth Partnership and the USGBC had agreed to help the City promote their initiatives. Ms. Alberani described the Smart Watts Program she was involved with, that used EECBG grant funding.

Ms. Alberani said above all, the City needed a sustainability mission statement.

Ms. Castoro said the Committee had written a sustainability statement but the Commission had not adopted it yet. Dr. Goetz stated the Committee had written a definition of sustainability for itself, but not a mission statement for the City. Ms. Castoro agreed to research this for the Board.

Ms. Alberani said Ms. Lueger was working on a sustainability web page for the City's website that they could use to promote sustainability incentives.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control - Dr. Goetz

Dr. Goetz said he had not selected initiatives from the report. His first priority was to develop a methodology for prioritizing sustainability initiatives. The second was to implement an integrated environmental management system. Two management systems he had identified that had been well researched were Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and ecoBUDGET. Dr. Goetz's third priority was to implement a quality management system for the sustainability program. Dr. Goetz stated the Commission had requested the Board suggest one or two departments in which to implement a quality management system.

Dr. Goetz said his fourth priority was to create a database of sustainability information: references, policies and procedures.

Transportation - Mr. Abbate

Mr. Abbate explained he was getting the original group together to allow them to determine what their priorities were. He stated he would send this report to Mr. Hiteshew to distribute to Board members prior to their next meeting.

6. Old Business

- Budgeting for Outcomes

Dr. Goetz informed the Board that Acting City Manager Allyson C. Love had included items similar to budgeting for outcomes when she sent out the budget preparation handbook. She had asked departments to cite outcomes for their programs and measurable criteria for progress. Dr. Goetz stated he and John Herbst, the City Auditor, had been working on this, but Mr. Herbst had been in an accident recently and was currently unavailable.

Chair Albee said he would ask Mr. Hiteshew to distribute Dr. Goetz's recommendations to Board members for further comment.

7. Communications to the City Commission

Mr. Teich explained the proper procedure for the Board to use to communicate with the Commission via their minutes. Chair Albee stated it was important for the Board to be clear and detailed in its communication.

Regarding the Board's previous recommendation for multi-family recycling, Chair Albee thought they could have provided strategies with their communication. Ms. Eckels said this information was readily available and the Board should not micromanage staff.

Ms. Eckels was concerned that the City Commission was so busy that they were not dealing with the communications from the boards and committees, and the communications could lose relevance if there was a delay in the Commission's review.

She noted that the Board's recommendation regarding the letter from the US Mayors had been around for some time and the Commission had not decided on this yet.

Ms. Eckels advised Board members to follow up with their appointing Commissioners to provide encouragement.

8. Public Comment

- Florida Brazil Mission: 7/1/11 – 7/10/11 – David Ferdinand

Mr. Ferdinand was not present.

Other Items and Announcements

Ms. Eckels referred to the Motion for New Waste Policy document Mr. Hiteshew had distributed and Chair Albee stated this should have been an agenda item.

Regarding the Waste Policy document, Mr. Abbate noted that staff had already responded to the Board's previous comment, and if they could not get staff buy-in, the suggestion would die.

Ms. Eckels clarified the Board's suggestion for multi-family recycling, and remarked that staff had been asked to use tools they currently had at their disposal to create a database to track the recycling collected from multi-family accounts for which the City could receive credit. Ms. Eckels said the City was not holding the service providers accountable to provide the data. She stated staff was making the process seem more complicated than it was and it appeared staff was making excuses for the haulers instead of representing the City's interest.

Mr. Abbate said he was concerned that the Board was taking an adversarial role with staff and this would result in an impasse. He wanted to discuss effective ways to implement changes and ways to engage staff.

Ms. Eckels stated she had concluded that the Board must approach things in terms of policy. She said the New Waste Policy document was a new topic based on one statement in staff's response to the Board's multifamily recycling recommendation. Ms. Eckels stated Board members were appointed by the Commissioners, and if the Commission adopted a policy recommended by the Board, it was staff's obligation to fulfill the policy.

Chair Albee said he would discuss this communication issue with Mr. Hiteshew.

Dr. Goetz did not feel the New Waste Policy proposal was adversarial or "far out", and said there was a movement in budgeting to make as many programs as possible self-sustaining. Mr. Abbate suggested someone could meet with Mr. Carbon to craft a joint recommendation.

Chair Albee stated in his experience, City staff was usually available and if one went about it the right way, one could “get your audience.”

Ms. Eckels said the Board should agree first that a policy was worthy, then a Board member could carry it forward.

Chair Albee summarized that the Board was seeking a revenue stream to support sustainability projects, and they had selected New Waste Policy as one target. Mr. Abbate stated someone (he suggested Chair Albee) needed to meet with the City Manager and staff to determine how to make this happen.

Motion made by Mr. Abbate, seconded by Ms. Eckels, to authorize Chair Albee to initiate discussions with the City Manager and staff to implement the New Waste Policy. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Dr. Goetz asked about available funding for initiatives, and noted that there were many grants available and they needed to pursue these whenever they presented an initiative to the City Commission. Mr. Teich pointed out that grant applications were very time and labor consuming, and the grants amounts were often very low.

Ms. Alberani announced that free Green jobs training scholarships were available from the County until January 2012.

Ms. Alberani stated the County used Agenda Quick, which streamlined the agenda process and drastically reduced the use of office paper.

Mr. Teich announced that a LauderScape workshop would be held at Holiday Park on April 16. The workshop would include water conservation tips and planting techniques for Fort Lauderdale residents.

Mr. Abbate stated the City must define a “Green” project; he did not want this to be limited to USGBC LEED projects.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next meeting date: April 25, 2011

Attachments:

Minutes – February 2011

[Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.]

