

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 27, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 1/2012 through 12/2012	
		Present	Absent
Jon Albee, Chair	P	2	0
Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Valerie Amor	P	2	0
Cathy Curry	P	1	1
Vicki Eckels	A	1	1
William Goetz [6:36]	P	2	0
Dana Pollitt	P	2	0
Rebecca J. Walter	P	2	0
Robert Walters	P	1	0

Also Present

Todd Hiteshew, Staff Liaison
 Anthony Fajardo, Zoning Administrator
 Randall Robinson, Planner II, Department of Sustainable Development
 Heather Steyn, WaterWorks 2011
 D'Wayne Spence, Assistant City Attorney
 B. Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Albee.

2. Roll call – Introductions

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

Chair Albee congratulated Ms. Walter for completing her Doctorate.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 2012

The Board noted corrections to the minutes.

Motion made by Ms. Walter, seconded by Ms. Amor, to approve the minutes as amended. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

4. Staff Liaison Report

- Earth Day Event

Mr. Hiteshew announced the annual Earth Day activities would take place on April 21 at Birch State Park.

Monica McNerney from Camp Live Oak said the Earth Day Every Day event had been held at Birch State Park for several years and Camp Live Oak had been operating at Birch State Park for 24 years. They were presenting the event this year with Sea Turtle Oversight Protection and the City. Ms. McNerney said there would be a full day of activities and programs. She asked for input from the Board regarding what activities they might like to be involved in.

Lance Cutrer, Camp Live Oak, stated they wanted to invite vendors and sponsors to participate in the event in a sustainable manner. Ms. McNerney distributed a sponsorship invitation and a vendor invitation.

Mr. Hiteshew said the City would have a booth at the event and wanted Board members to participate and talk to residents at the booth.

- Certified Wildlife Habitat

Mr. Hiteshew stated the City wanted to get City-wide certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat. He said they currently had 137 registered home habitats and 7 common areas. Mr. Hiteshew said staff wished a Board member to part of their Community Wildlife Habitat Team. He agreed to email information to Board members.

- Green Award Board Contact

Because Ms. Castoro was no longer on the Board, Mr. Hiteshew said they needed another Board member to act as contact person for the Green Award.

- PACE - Property Assessed Clean Energy Program

Mr. Hiteshew said the next step in this was to create a special district for people wanting to take advantage of the program. This would require an ordinance. Mr. Hiteshew said they were looking at the model used in Lantana.

Mr. Hiteshew said this would assist owners with energy efficient improvements as a non-ad valorem tax on a property tax bill. The assessment would stay with the property, not the owner. Dr. Goetz said there were modifications that could make this more workable. He asked Mr. Hiteshew to send Board members information for their March meeting.

- Data Storage

No discussion.

5. New Business

- Robert Walters - Introduction

This item was discussed out of order.

Mr. Hiteshew introduced new Board member Robert Walters. Mr. Walters stated he was an architect in Fort Lauderdale.

6. Old Business

- Urban Agriculture Ordinance Workshop Update

Mr. Fajardo said they had determined that the ordinance should be streamlined to a use permitted in the City for agriculture, as well as tying it in with the City's Comprehensive plan. Mr. Fajardo said they would combine the Board's recommendations with the original items sent to the City Commission before sending it to the approving bodies.

Chair Albee said one of the outcomes of the workshop had been that "less is better than more." He said they had determined that urban agriculture and community gardens should be permitted in all zoning categories. Chair Albee stated if it were not permitted in a residential setting, "you wipe out the entire CRA." He said they wanted to use the definition of agriculture as promulgated by the State of Florida as the basis of the ordinance. They felt there was enough existing regulation. He admitted the ordinance would be advanced in a manner that would not be perfect, but it would institute a rule allowing urban farming and community gardens to advance.

Mr. Fajardo said their goal was to get the document to the Planning and Zoning Board next month. As the ordinance moved forward, the Board's recommendations would move forward with it. Ms. Fajardo said the Board could also send a Communication to the City Commission.

In some of the links they had looked at, Mr. Walters had noticed roof gardens in New York City, and he noted that the Florida Building Code did not permit Green roofs, so staff might not want to include that in their recommendations. Mr. Fajardo stated nothing they wrote could violate the Florida Building code. Ms. Amor said anything on a rooftop must not be structurally integrated.

Chair Albee remarked that Florida law excluded many current urban agriculture practices. He said a good portion of Florida was "completely unaware of what's happening around the United States as it relates to urban farming." Chair Albee said many communities had adopted a Declaration of Food Independence. He said the Planning and Zoning Board would look at this as a land use issue but the farming community looked at this as a sovereign right to produce food.

- Calendar 'Road Map' for 2012

Mr. Hiteshew said the SAP initiatives were broken up by chapters to focus on implementation. Each month, beginning in April, a representative would attend the Board's meeting to report on implementation status.

Chair Albee said this related to a conversation the Board had at the end of 2011 regarding measuring how the City was accomplishing the objectives of the SAP. They wanted to ensure the Board was kept apprised of the City's position regarding the SAP and whether the City was addressing issues as they were laid out in the SAP.

Dr. Goetz felt that reporting the status was "a little bit after the fact." He wanted the Board to understand and have input into how the City set priorities for addressing the initiatives. Dr. Goetz suggested putting this on the Board's March Agenda and inviting Ms. Torriente and Mr. Carbon to attend. He wanted a list of Green initiatives the City had already undertaken. Mr. Hiteshew said this had been included with the SAP summary approximately one year ago. He agreed to re-send this to Board members.

7. Communications to the City Commission

None

Other discussion items

Mr. Pollitt announced the 2012 Climate Leadership Conference would be held on 2/29 and 2/30 at the Bonaventure Hotel in Weston. He planned to attend and agreed to report to the Board at their March meeting.

Mr. Pollitt said the US Solar Institute was now in Fort Lauderdale. This was the only school accredited by the Florida Department of Education for solar PV. He said the owner could address the Board if they desired.

Chair Albee suggested addressing an educational overview of what was happening in Broward County educational centers for the purpose of developing alternative energy education. Ms. Amor suggested contacting the Energy Store and Broward College.

Dr. Goetz said the City had never partnered with any higher education institute on any substantive initiative and it was important to develop this partnership.

Dr. Goetz wanted to ask Ms. Torriente and Mr. Carbon to attend the SAB meetings on a regular basis. He noted department directors and Assistant City Managers routinely attended Budget Advisory Board meetings. Dr. Goetz said this would improve communication. He noted the Board had not been informed about Water Matters Day, to which they could contribute.

Mr. Spence advised the Board to send a Communication to the City Commission to request staff presence at their meetings. Chair Albee asked Mr. Hiteshew to extend

invitations to Ms. Torriente and Mr. Carbon. Mr. Hiteshew said Ms. Torriente and Mr. Carbon had standing invitations to attend SAB meetings. He said he wanted to be respectful of their time and tailor their attendance to specific agenda items. Chair Albee remarked that current administration was the most helpful, approachable and cooperative that he had ever seen.

Ms. Amor suggested that Board members attend City Commission meetings to speak in support of resolutions.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Next meeting date: March 26, 2012

Attachments:

Minutes – January 2012

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