

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY OFFICE – 2ND FLOOR
290 NORTHEAST 3RD STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
APRIL 16, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 1/2012 through 12/2012	
		Present	Absent
Jon Albee, Chair	P	3	0
Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Valerie Amor	P	3	0
Steven Cook	P	2	0
Cathy Curry [6:40]	P	2	1
Vicki Eckels	P	2	1
William Goetz	A	2	1
Dana Pollitt	P	3	0
Rebecca J. Walter	A	2	1
Robert Walters	P	2	0

Also Present

Todd Hiteshew, Staff Liaison
Renee Cross, Transportation and Mobility
Dana Little, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Michael Madfis, BCFPC
John L. Rencher, Fleet Services
Jeff Speck, Speck & Associates, D.C.
Jolie Reed, Public Works Utilities

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.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 2012

The Board noted corrections to the minutes.

Motion made by Ms. Amor, seconded by Ms. Eckels, 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 Saturday, April 21st at Birch State Park from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Events are planned for the entire day including a Smart Watts Workshop, Shower Head Exchange and a Sea Oats Planting Workshop. The City will have booths with other vendors

Mr. Hiteshew introduced Jolie Reed, part of the Public Works administrative staff.

Because the fourth Monday of the month in May falls on May 28th, Memorial Day which is a recognized City Holiday, Mr. Hiteshew asked the committee if they want to meet in May. Ms. Eckels made a motion to take a holiday, seconded by Ms. Curry. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

5. New Business

[This item was discussed out of order]

- Mr. Jeff Speck – Walkability Study

Mr. Speck, City Planner from Washington, D.C., presented a Walkability Study Powerpoint presentation for the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale based on his next book: Walkable Cities: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time. The premise is to have a day-to-day physical framework encouraging pedestrian culture and attracting empty-nesters and millennials. The main reason for meeting with the board is to address questions and get input of about key anchors, destinations, tough spots, opportunities, areas which work well and areas he should look at more closely. The group provided feedback as to which areas Mr. Speck should visit during his visit and other issues factoring into the walkability such as trees/shade, wider sidewalks, lack of a center, failure to connect to the waterfront properly.

- Mr. John Rencher – Air Quality SAP update

Mr. Rencher, Fleet Manager, from the City of Fort Lauderdale's Public Works Department Fleet Division presented a Powerpoint Sustainability Action Plan of Goal 1 and shared with the group the City's Policy and Standards Manual on Fleet Vehicle and Equipment Idling Policy.

The goal is to reduce the use of fossil fuel in vehicles and increase fuel efficiency by 20% by 2020 which will reduce carbon footprint, the amount of greenhouse gases and have economic savings. Goal 1 objectives are to increase fuel efficiency by 20% by 2020, gain better fuel efficiency in fleet replacement, reduce fossil fuel usage by 1% per year, incorporate more hybrids and alternative fuel vehicles into the fleet and reduce vehicle engine idling time. The strategies include increasing fuel efficiencies and reducing fuel usage. If fuel usage is reduced by 1% in one year it reduces burning 14,500 gallons of fuel equating to an annual economic savings of \$52,000.

Mr. Rencher explained reducing fuel usage has to do with driver behaviors and habits. Logistics and route planning are also important items to consider for reducing fuel usage.

In addition, Mr. Rencher explained newer vehicles get better gas mileage and have better fuel economy than the vehicles they replace. Due to budget constraints, the City has not been able to replace older vehicles. The City used to replace cars every seven years, but has not been able to keep on that pace. In terms of alternative fuel vehicles, some require different infrastructure. The City currently has 11 alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet: nine Toyota Prius and two hybrid bucket trucks which have a greenhouse gas savings of 33 ton savings or 2,200 pounds. However, the Prius cost \$9,000-\$10,000 more than a normal sedan and the bucket trucks are an additional \$50,000 in addition to the normal cost of a bucket truck. A grant covered the cost of the two current hybrid bucket trucks.

Mr. Rencher shared the City's policy on Motor Vehicles. The policy prohibits unnecessary engine idling for qualifying vehicles, those vehicles must be turned off within 30 seconds of stopping. Reducing idling time from the qualifying vehicles by 10 minutes per day, yields 48,080 gallons of fuel saved and reduce fossil fuel by 3.3% per year and 427 tons of greenhouse gas is saved. Over 10 years the savings is \$246 per ton. However, for greenhouse savings from idle reduction, this does not cost anything because the resources are already within the City, all needing to be done is to monitor and enforce the program and policy.

The City uses EJ Ward Fuel Management System software and part of it is a way to monitor fuel usage and idling when a vehicle is at the gas pump. In fiscal year 2008/09, there was a 2% increase in fuel usage. In 2009/10, there was a 1.8% increase fuel usage. In 2010/11, there was a .5% increase. So far, for fiscal year 2011/2012, there has been a .5% decrease in fuel usage. Comparing this March to last March, there was a 3.5% decrease in fuel usage. Historically in winter months the fuel usage goes down, however, this past winter was a warmer winter therefore the air conditioning in vehicles ran more.

Mr. Walters asked if the City is looking to use natural gas. Mr. Rencher said it does not fit the profile for Fleet right now because the City does not run transit busses or a lot of

garbage trucks. The cost would be \$5,000-\$8,000 more per smaller vehicle to have compressed natural gas for the public works vehicles and the City does not have the infrastructure for it. Ms. Amor mentioned some diesel can be converted to use vegetable oil/bio diesel, however, the City does not use bio diesel. Mr. Cook asked if there is an incentive for departments to save fuel. Mr. Hiteshew and Mr. Rencher said the only reward for conserving is less money from their budgets. Ms. Amor said there is a way to convert motors in existing vehicles to use water which would require 25% less gas and not require any infrastructure. Mr. Rencher said it is not a proven technology for fleet and the vehicles would have to be retrofitted to use it, there are budget restraints to do that and it would void the warranties. Ms. Amor said it is an inexpensive thing to do and since most warranties are already past, it would save a substantial amount of money on gas and put the money into what they need to.

Mr. Cook mentioned the Police Department take home cars and taxpayers paying for fuel. Mr. Rencher and Mr. Albee said that is union contract issue and part of the employee benefits. Mr. Rencher said taking away the benefit would not save the City money because "hot seat" cars only last two years since they run 24 hours a day with three shifts in one vehicle whereas they would last seven years otherwise. Commissioner Roberts already did studies on this topic and found take home cars save money. Ms. Eckels said it is striking a balance between someone who drives 5 miles to a neighboring City versus 50 miles to another county. Mr. Hiteshew said this is a union issue. Mr. Rencher said it is a matter of who pays for the fuel but he has addressed it to his liaison in the Police Department and some changes will be made.

Ms. Eckels said she was told there are vehicles in Code Enforcement and in the Police Department where even if the employee stops to take a break, they have to sit with the vehicle running to keep the computers running because at any moment, they can get a call and cannot have computer rebooting. Ms. Eckels was told they were looking into putting batteries in the trunks so computers can operate off the battery. The battery would be charged when the vehicle is running. The vehicles can then be turned off while the computer be kept powered on by battery. Mr. Rencher said the battery is charging the battery even when the car is off and uses a minimal amount of the battery to remain charged because it is in a sleep mode and can come up instantly. Ms. Eckels wanted to know how long police cars had that capability because of the idling policy. Mr. Rencher said as long as he has been there but the Police Department has their own idling policy and that is not something covered by Fleet. Ms. Amor wanted to know how many bicycles are in the Police Department fleet. Mr. Rencher did not know because Police has its own bicycle fleet.

Mr. Rencher said Fleet has an open door policy.

6. Old Business

Ms. Eckels recommended for the next meeting, instead of having new presentations, the board should take a step back and revisit older issues such as turtle lighting. Mr. Albee instructed the board to e-mail Mr. Hiteshew anything they would like to visit at the next meeting; this will be in addition to an SAP update. Mr. Hiteshew will send a status spreadsheet as a reminder.

- Urban Agriculture Ordinance Workshop Update

Mr. Hiteshew informed the board communication from the last meeting is going to the City Commission and will be on the conference agenda for April 17th regarding a joint workshop.

Prior to meeting Ms. Eckels, as the District IV appointee, and Michael Madfis met with Commissioner Rogers explaining to him Planning and Zoning and SAB should come together with one ordinance both approve instead of coming forward with one falling short. Mr. Madfis supports this as part of his work with the food policy organization. Mr. Madfis said urban farms should be where food is going to be used. Community gardens would be better facilitated in community spaces and not in someone's yard, park, church, or school. Commissioner Rogers requested someone be at the Commission meeting to give an explanation of why this is believed to be a shortcoming. Ms. Amor said she would attend the Planning and Zoning Board meeting and read to the board what she planned to say. Ms. Amor said she could speak on behalf of the board. Ms. Eckels made a motion to for Ms. Amor to make her statement on behalf of the board, Mr. Politt seconded.

There was discussion regarding the ordinance stating the use of pesticides. Mr. Cook said the ordinance did not state anything about being organic and did not want pesticides to be used. Ms. Amor said the ordinance needs to be rewritten to include organic. Ms. Curry said there are a lot of herbs to kill bugs. Mr. Ablee said the word "pesticide" is defined as killing pests by any means and there are a host of other beneficial things that should be used and advocated in an urban farm not detrimental to beneficial insects and other life forms. Ms. Amor said they need to agree on the principle. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Cook mention to the group FPL will be going before the Public Service Commission to request a \$1.10 base rate increase because more people are conserving. The increase is not based on how much is used and affects those who conserve the most. Ms. Eckels said if FPL needs more money, it should be associated with use so if someone reduces their use, they benefit. Mr. Cook said FPL is switching to natural gas and FPL said the cost is being offset by fuel cost so it is not suppose to cost consumers any more. Ms. Eckels said this should possibly be on the June agenda. Mr. Cook will e-mail Mr. Hiteshew when he finds out when it goes before the PSC.

7. Communications to the City Commission

None

8. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Next meeting date: June 25, 2012

Attachments:

Minutes – April 2012

[Minutes prepared by Jolie Reed, City of Fort Lauderdale]