

FINAL

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 1ST FLOOR
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
August 26, 2013 – 6:30 PM

			Cumulative Attendance 1/2013 through 12/2013	
MEMBERS	APPT BY	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
1. Valerie Amor, Chair	M	P	7	1
2. Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	II	P	8	0
3. Daniel Ayers	M	A	3	2
4. Steven Cook	I	P	6	2
5. Vicki Eckels	IV	P	7	1
6. Darin Lentner	IV	A	6	2
7. Jim Moyer	III	P	8	0
8. Mate Thitisawat	C	P	7	1
9. Jim Hetzel	I	P	4	1
10. Vacant	II	-	-	-
11. Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	4	0

Also Present

Julie Leonard – Office of Sustainability
Gene Dempsey – Office of Sustainability
Heather Steyn – Office of Sustainability
Citizens interested in the Agriculture Ordinance

1. Call of Order/Roll Call

Chair Amor called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present. Jim Moyer arrived at 6:39pm.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 2013

Motion made by Ms. Eckels and seconded by Ms. Alberani to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2013 meeting. There were a few minor corrections to the minutes. In a voice vote, the Board motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Liaison Report– Presented by Gene Dempsey and Julie Leonard

It was announced by Julie Leonard that Josh Nichols is no longer with the City. He resigned last Thursday. Gene Dempsey was originally scheduled to cover for Josh while he attended a meeting in Chicago.

PACE

The PACE presentation to Commission has been postponed until further notice.

4. Old Business

Rain Tree/Marina Lofts

Ms. Eckels notes that the Commission began discussing the Rain Tree presentations at the August 20th Commission meeting at approximately 10:00-10:30pm. The developer did a 45 minute presentation and there was a 15-20 minutes discussion about moving the tree and then it was opened to the public and it went on after 3:00am. The Commission took a vote at approximately 3:07am and voted to move the tree (Commissioner Trantalis was the sole vote against the tree move while Commissioner Rogers abstained from the vote). The Commission then passed the Marina Lofts project with Commissioner Rogers again abstaining from the vote. Mr. Moyer noted that he attended the pre-commission presentation where they had the model of Marina Lofts. He brought up the Rain Tree and expressed his opposition to the move. He also wrote a note to Commissioner Dubose prior to the meeting suggesting the rejection on the movement of the tree and then rethink the Marina Lofts plan. Ms. Eckels noted that during the Commission meeting, the Commissioners did make a requirement about the location of the power lines within the community and that the Commission would have to approve the location. The bond for the tree move will last for five years rather than one year. They did drop the number of units and the height of the buildings. Ms. Amor did a presentation for three minutes during the August 20th Commission meeting to discuss the opposition and suggesting how to keep the tree in place while modifying the Marina Lofts plan. Chair Amor doesn't know if there is anything else they can do for this issue. Gene Dempsey notes that a permit will have to be pulled to move the tree and it has not been pulled yet. The Department of Sustainable Development and Gene have a meeting next week to discuss the start of the process. Gene will be involved in the removal of the trees that are currently in the designated location. They are trying to locate the trees onto the Riverwalk area or in the neighborhood. The trees are going to be moved fairly close to where they are currently located. Mr. Cook notes that the cost of the initial move would pay for thousands of large trees to be planted in the neighborhoods or other parts of Fort Lauderdale.

Agriculture Ordinance Workshop

Chair Amor says the SAB and the public present at the meeting will go line-by-line through the Agriculture Ordinance to revise. Mr. Olivieri provided a draft Resolution for Healthful Foods and Ms. Eckels thinks that it perhaps should include food-producing animals (such as hens). Mr. Thitisawat suggests that the resolution should describe the link between sustainability and health and then from health to food. Mr. Hetzel asks if the resolution should be completed before the ordinance. Ms. Leonard says that you can start with a conference meeting and you can introduce the ordinance the same night at the Commission meeting and then the second reading at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Madfis suggests that there should be a broad food policy developed for the County and that the current Agriculture Ordinance should be tweaked a bit until the policy is in place and then go back and modify the Ordinance. The food policy would probably take some time to develop – possibly one to two years and that's when the Ordinance should be changed. Mr. Cook suggests that the Ordinance should not call a garden a "community garden" because he thinks that it should

be a urban/public garden. It is clarified that the community garden means that the land could be private and people rent parts of the garden to grow their own produce. Chair Amor is concerned about the time mentioned in the Resolution and how it would translate to the Ordinance. Mr. Chad Scott's communication is concerned about putting an animal section in the Ordinance that conflicts with a code within the City. Mr. Madfis notes that there should be an exemption for lots under 4,000 sq.ft. like they do in the Seattle ordinance. Mr. Cook questions using the Seattle ordinance as a reference since we're dealing with Florida. Mr. Madfis feels that it would be beneficial to remove the zoning restrictions so that it encourages smaller gardens and urban farms.

The group begins going through the ordinance. They feel that perhaps 7,500 sq. ft. should be the minimum size that does not need regulation. There is a discussion about smaller plot sizes. Section B-1 and B-2 should be combined into one so that it reads Urban Farms and Community Gardens. The rest of the sentence in Section B-1 reads: Urban Farms and Community Gardens shall be permitted as a principal of accessory use when the development site is located within any zoning district. Section C should be removed. No change to Section D. Section E – Process reads: 1. No permit required up to 4,000 sq. ft. of planting area and over 4,000 sq. ft. would require a permit. All urban farms and community gardens regardless of size to be registered and registration number posted on-site. E-1 will then become E-2 and E-2 will become E-3. Current E-2(a)(i) changes the hours sentence to read: Be in compliance with noise and property use code of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Madfis believes the time frame should be reasonable – especially in a neighborhood (i.e., not too early). Ms. Eckels suggests that Section E-2 (a)(iii) should state: Refer to State Statutes in regards to chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers. The rest of the sentence should be stricken. There is discussion by Chair Amor and others about having the policy encourage natural pest control. Current section E-2 (b) is modified to state: Community Gardens located on private or public property shall include a trespass affidavit from the property owner. Mr. Hruschka from the City suggests that the public and private options be added to the previous statement.

The SAB discusses Section F – Review Process and adds the 4,000 sq. ft. requirement so that sites under 4,000 sq. ft. planting area are exempt from the review process while Community Gardens or Urban Farms over 4,000 sq. ft. of planting area require a site plan approval. SAB goes to Section I – Standards. They remove part (a) completely and revise part (b) to read: Utility or tool shed(s) may be a permitted accessory structure. Ms. Eckels suggests that the wording "fencing shall be a permitted accessory structure" should be included. There shall be a minimum of 10 feet distance requirement between accessory structures. Permeable paving shall be a permitted accessory use. Mr. Hetzel suggests that the wording regarding compliance with Section 47-19.2 EE be removed as well as the acreage required for additional sheds. Section I(d)(i)(2) regarding handheld tillers or edgers has the wording gas or electrically powered stricken and the members noted that the policy should require no fossil fuels to be used.

Chair Amor adds the word 'permeable' to the Section I(d)(ii)(3) mention of dust free surface. Section I(e)(ii)(1) is changed to read Signage visible from the public right-of-way. Section I(e)(ii)(2) has the wording Signage in conformance with the City's signage to be allowed on a fence or free-standing post. Mr. Scott's communication is concerned with the restrictiveness of the signage size and location. They want to address the dimensions of the sign (length, width, height). Mr. Hruschka is concerned with the signage not be visible to the public right-of-way and suggests City staff look

into the sizing of the signs. For Section I(f), they want to encourage the city to develop a category for the Urban Farm use for business tax receipt. Currently Mr. Madfis says that there is no category for Urban Farms.

Ms. Alberani mentions animal husbandry has not been discussed while they've been going through the Ordinance. Mr. Hruschka suggests that animal husbandry not be included and to get the other items for Urban Farms/Community Gardens passed first and then revisit the issue of animal husbandry. Ms. Eckels disagrees and says that the main reason the ordinance is under review is because it was thrown out of the original ordinance and that many people want to have animal husbandry allowed in the City legally. Chair Amor notes that bees and beekeeping also need to be added to the Ordinance. She suggests they are added in Section E.

Communications to the City Commission

Ms. Steyn says that it is up to the board to write the communication and have it submitted through staff. Mr. Hetzel questions why the board has to write this if it will become a legal document. Ms. Eckels believes that in order for changes to occur to the writing of the ordinance, Commission has to direct staff to do this. Ms. Steyn suggests that instead of rewriting the ordinance, SAB prepares a communication to Commission outlining their concerns with the ordinance and how they've had two meetings open to the public and taken their feedback. Ms. Eckels feels that once staff is tasked with reshaping the ordinance, the SAB can work on the broad policy at the same time. Ms. Eckels begins to frame out the communication by saying: SAB having done a review of the current ordinance and come to consensus about key changes that need to be made to improve it, request that a staff person be assigned to work with SAB on revisions to the ordinance in hopes of having a revised ordinance come before the Commission for approval before the end of the calendar year. **Motion** made by Ms. Eckels, seconded by Ms. Smith and approved by the Board.

5. Items for Next Meeting: None.

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Committee Comments: Chair Amor notes that there will be another City meeting regarding the lighting at the beach and the issue of sea turtles sometime in September. Mr. Dempsey notes that the City exceeds the State requirements for lighting and sea turtles.

8. Adjournment With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm. **Motion** made by Ms. Eckels. Seconded by Mr. Moyer.

Next meeting date: September 23, 2013

[Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Johnston]