

# FINAL

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 1ST FLOOR  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
September 23, 2013 – 6:30 PM

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

### Also Present

Julie Leonard – Office of Sustainability  
Heather Steyn – Office of Sustainability

### 1. Call of Order/Roll Call

Chair Amor called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present. Jim Moyer arrived at 6:48pm.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 2013

**Motion** made by Ms. Eckels and seconded by Ms. Alberani to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2013 meeting. There were a few minor corrections to the minutes. In a voice vote, the Board motion passed unanimously. Mr. Moyer arrived late and asked that the minutes be revised to say that in his e-mail to Commissioner DuBose he had asked Commissioner DuBose to reject the movement of the rain tree and then rethink the Marina Lofts plan. **New Motion** was made by Ms. Eckels to approve the minutes with Mr. Moyer's comments and seconded by Chair Amor. In a voice vote, the new motion was approved.

### 3. Staff Liaison Report– Presented by Heather Steyn

#### Coastal Cleanup

The Coastal Cleanup was held on September 22, 2013 and the Office of Sustainability participated. A lot of garbage was picked up on the beach and beach park area including tarps.

### **GalaVerde**

The GalaVerde Awards were held on September 21, 2013 and the City of Fort Lauderdale won the Most Outstanding Green Government award. The City's Housing Authority picked up three awards and Pine Crest School picked up two. It was great recognition to green building efforts within the City. The City of Miramar, City of Miami, City of Pompano Beach and City of Wellington also competed for this award. Our application included some of the items we had submitted to FGBC including EEGBC project, wind turbines, tree canopy, the Vision Plan, Sistrunk Corridor project, the Wave, Adaptation Action Plan, the Sun Trolley, bike pathways, water conservation, etc.

### **FGBC Status**

The City is still trying for platinum level status for FGBC (Florida Green Building Coalition). We are currently at gold level status but can submit additional materials for consideration to try to achieve platinum status. We are trying to complete our final application by the end of September.

### **Rockefeller Foundation – 100 Resilient Cities**

The City of Fort Lauderdale is applying for the 100 Resilient Cities grant. We were approved by the Rockefeller Foundation to apply and we are currently working with Susy Torriente's office on the application. The grant will be \$1,000,000 to each winning city to provide for a Resiliency Officer and two supporting positions to develop the resiliency plan and outreach to our community and they will provide access to the Rockefeller networking for resources and knowledge. The application is due October 14<sup>th</sup> and the finalists will be announced next year. The criteria for the application are based on population, location, what resiliency features are already in place along with several other aspects. The Resiliency Officer would either report to the City Manager (as a possible Assistant City Manager) or serve in the Mayor's office.

### **Update on Sustainability Manager Position** – presented by Julie Leonard

The City will begin recruitment for Josh Nichols' position. The existing list expired in August and the job will be posted.

### **Rain Tree Update** – presented by Julie Leonard

There is no update for the Rain Tree. Heather will look into an update for the SAB.

### **Ground-breaking at Flagler Village Community Garden**

The ground-breaking occurred on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Commissioner Trantalis was present. They had food trucks, vendors, music and it was exciting to see the community coming out for this event.

## **4. Old Business**

### **Agriculture Ordinance Workshop**

Mr. Cook did not understand the hen part of the Agricultural Ordinance discussion. Ms. Eckels described what was intended as discussed at the last meeting. Chair Amor notes that the added discussion was a result of Mr. Hetzel's as a planning conference attendee in Orlando regarding the Orlando ordinance and their creation of a pilot program. The pilot program, already launched, has standards for the coop design and staff gives an annual update to their Commission. Anyone who wishes to raise hens has to take a class beforehand and some drop out once they find out how much effort it takes to raise hens. Mr. Hetzel sent a PowerPoint presentation to Heather and this presentation will be included in the next meeting. Mr. Hetzel recommends that the City of Fort

Lauderdale consider this pilot program as an alternative if the Commission does not want to make any changes to the code language.

### **Communications to the City Commission**

Ms. Eckels and Chair Amor begin the revision during the meeting. [Note: The communication below is the final submission to Commission].

The Sustainability Advisory Board (Board) has reviewed City Ordinance C-12-24 (Ordinance), to amend the Unified Land Development Regulations of The City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, permitting urban farms and community gardens by creating section 47-18.41, Urban Farms and Community Gardens. The Board has come to consensus about recommendations to improve and streamline the current Ordinance.

The SAB requests that staff be assigned to work directly with Board members on the ordinance language necessary for these revisions. The SAB's goal is to have a revised draft ordinance presented before the Commission by the end of the calendar year. Aligning with the city's recent "Most Outstanding Green Government" Gala Verde award from the South Florida Chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), refining the Ordinance will serve to underscore and enhance the City's continued commitment to sustainability.

### **Motion**

Motion made by Ms. Eckels, seconded by Mr. Hetzel, to advise the above Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. New Business**

### **Capital Improvements – Five Year Plan (CIP)**

Chair Amor notes that the CIP was approved recently and wonders if there are any projects that the SAB could contribute toward. It is suggested that the Board review the CIP and bring forward to Staff which project they have an interest in. Heather will send the Strategic Plan to the Board. (This has not been done.) Chair Amor asked for the Board to be part of the Landscape Ordinance discussion especially regarding including edible landscape. Ms. Eckels asks whether there is a mechanism so that the department that is proposing an ordinance change can do a presentation to the Board so that their feedback can be heard. Julie notes that the Landscape Ordinance is currently being revised and it has to concur with the Broward County Ordinance. The Board would like to discuss the Landscape Ordinance with Gene Dempsey.

## **6. Items for Next Meeting:**

None.

## **7. Public Comment:**

None.

## **8. Committee Comments:**

Mr. Thitisawat notes that there will be several events at FAU during the third week of October including the Sea Level Rise Summit and SubTropical Cities Conference.

Ms. Alberani mentions an Urban Oasis potluck that you will have to RSVP to attend.

Chair Amor asks Mr. Thitisawat how the students working on the house in the City is going. The deadline for their project is next week. The FAU Architecture School has added another floor in the building. FAU is interested in some buildings within the City and has a grant that may purchase them. One of them is on Sistrunk but a commercial enterprise is interested in it as well. The grant will allow them to rehab the building.

Mr. Hetzel talks about the planning conference in Orlando and the session on Urban Chickens. There was supposed to be a session with Sustainability included but little was discussed in it.

Chair Amor mentions the grant she received, Feed Your Creativity Art to Heart. As the artist recipient, she designed bicycle sculptures painted by the community that will be placed in downtown Fort Lauderdale community gardens and urban farms. She will be adding stakes with signs showing that nontraditional locations could have edible landscaping. She is developing a map of Community Gardens/Urban Farms in Broward County that will serve to identify areas in need of local food production cross identified with vacant, underutilized sites for potential future agricultural use.

#### **9. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. **Motion** made by Ms. Eckels. Seconded by Ms. Alberani.

**Next meeting date:** October 28, 2013

[Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Johnston]