

## FINAL

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th FLOOR  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
October 28, 2013 – 6:30 PM

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

### Also Present

Susy Torriente – Assistant City Manager  
Julie Leonard – Office of Sustainability  
Heather Steyn – Office of Sustainability  
Loretta Cronk – Office of Sustainability  
Ebony Pardo – 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 6:36pm.

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

**Motion** made by Ms. Eckels and seconded by Ms. Alberani to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting. Mr. Hetzel had a correction regarding the urban hens' pilot program. In a voice vote, the Board motion passed unanimously.

### 3. New Business

#### Presentation on Multi-family Recycling – Presented by Loretta Cronk

Ms. Cronk presents a new program called "Get in the Green" which is a multi-family recycling incentive program. The Resource Recovery Board provided the City of Fort Lauderdale a grant to increase and stimulate single-stream recycling. The grant has three phases: conversion to carts, public spaces recycling (in the midst of implementing now), and multi-family recycling (condos and

apartments). Multi-family properties include condos and apartments with four units or more and mixed use properties (where 75% or more of the building's square footage is dedicated to residential units). These properties can obtain a rebate in one of two ways: increase or substantially increase their existing recycling collection or implement recycling at a property (non-compliant). There are about 3,000 multi-family properties in the City of Fort Lauderdale. We have created a database based on the City's Cayenta program (water billing) as well as data from our permitted haulers. Based on this data, we have an idea of which properties are in compliance with our long-standing Recycling Ordinance and which ones are not. We are targeting the non-compliant properties and we will be notifying these properties in three ways: those which have 100 units or more (a small number of these), the 10-100 units and finally 4-8 units. The 10-100 units non-compliance letters will go out in November and the 4-8 units letters will go out in January/February. The letters to the property managers will remind them that there is a Recycling Ordinance that requires them to provision a recycling program for their tenants/residents and will alert them about the rebate that is available. The letter will include a rebate application. We are hopeful we will get a good number of responses for the \$110,000 but there are only 110 rebates available. We are also developing education materials for workshops and webinars.

Ms. Cronk asks the SAB to look at the flyer provided to become familiar with the program. There is also a website for the information (listed on the flyer). Mr. Ayers asks what the cost is for a recycling container provided to a multi-family property. Ms. Cronk says that we are not privy to these costs because it is between the property and the hauler. Typically trash costs more than recycling. He suggests that this lower cost need to be communicated to the property owners/managers. Ms. Cronk says that this topic will be discussed during the workshops and webinars. Ms. Eckels asks about these non-compliant buildings and whether they will be expected to comply with the industry standard for carts per in-units versus just getting one cart to comply with the ordinance when multiple carts are actually needed to provide sufficient capacity for all tenants. She also asks whether we can put in our license agreement with haulers that they must offer recycling services in addition to their trash pick-up in order to sustain the movement. Ms. Cronk believes that these permits include both aspects. Ms. Whitfield notes that in California, the state passed a similar ordinance 20 years ago and that there are ADA compliance requirements for access to these trash/recycling areas. In San Francisco, there is a composting aspect with restaurants and large residences separating their organic waste and the City may want to consider this as part of their recycling effort and how to design the containers to mitigate the odors. Ms. Cronk notes that since Fort Lauderdale has older buildings they will be going on a case by case basis for these multi-family properties. Mr. Hetzel asks if Code Enforcement will be involved and Ms. Cronk notes that there is \$25,000 in the grant to use a code enforcement officer. Mr. Thitisawat suggests that the flyer contain background information at the website links provided. There will be posters, door hangers, etc. that will supplement the information provided in the letter. Chair Amor suggests that the flyer state that this recycling is mandatory. She thinks that part of the DRC process considers composting as part of their disposal/waste storage area.

Mr. Cook asks if the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show has recycling on site since it didn't last year and many water bottles and plastic bags were thrown in the trash nor was there any bicycle parking on site. Ms. Torriente notes that the City of Fort Lauderdale is revising their special events policies and procedures and permits and recycling will be required moving forward. Regarding bicycle parking, the Transportation & Mobility Department created a bike parking lot for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and they will start to do this for city-sponsored events.

Mr. Cook asks about smaller multi-family units (3 and under) and whether they will be included in this drive and Ms. Cronk says that the focus on the grant is for the larger multi-family units but there will be an evaluation in the Spring of 2014 regarding this issue.

Regarding recycling at commercial properties, the Recycling Ordinance does not include these properties. It may be a direction that the City will move toward but you need to provide staff and resources for this. Right now, the grant has to focus on the multi-family units. Mr. Cook asks why his food waste can't go in his yard waste container and Ms. Cronk says that the current contracts with their yard waste hauler allows food waste that you've grown in your garden but not food waste that is purchase – that's just how the contract is written.

Mr. Ayers asks about construction debris and recycling. Ms. Cronk says that such items have to consider how much these recycled items can be sold. There is no revenue in recycling glass but it is a historical part of recycling so we continue to do it. Mr. Moyer notes that his company has tried to recycle cardboard and they were given a minimal amount of money for their efforts but they will continue to do it to recycle the paper. Chair Amor asks if the future special events policy will possibly require vendors not to use foam plates and cups. She notes that some areas require this of vendors at special events. Ms. Torriente had not heard of this but will bring it up when they begin discussing the special events policies.

Chair Amor notes that the glass currently recycled is broken up and placed on the trash in a layer. Ms. Eckels noted that Broward County did a pilot program on grinding up glass to replace sand and apparently it was successful. It took the County a long time to get the approval from State and Federal authorities to test it due to sea turtle nesting but it did work out in a small area at Hollywood Beach. Unfortunately, the company that did the test grinding went out of business and there has been no one to replace them.

#### **Discussion with Susy Torriente**

Ms. Torriente plans on attending more of the SAB meetings when possible. She describes how the Office of Sustainability has come together and how it is starting to shape up nicely under Ms. Leonard's guidance. There has been a lot of work going on and she's here to lend her support to staff and the Board.

Ms. Whitfield asks whether the Office of Sustainability is copied on the list of all the projects that are being developed in the City. For example, Walmart has a Global Responsibility plan which they apply to various projects they develop in the U.S. She notes that Walmart is developing the site on Broward Boulevard and asks how the Office of Sustainability can get involved in the planning approval for the site. Ms. Torriente notes that we're continuing in that effort and will start the Green Team again which will be comprised of staff from various departments and setting a more aggressive agenda and more involved in policy and planning. She agrees that we have to look at our codes and make changes to policies and that the City may want to weigh in more in the DRC (Development Review Committee) looking at projects that are being presented and viewing them in a sustainable manner. Chair Amor thinks that someone from the SAB should sit on the DRC so that they can have input in plan submissions and reviews. Mr. Cook and Ms. Eckels also note that the SAB finds out about this after-the-fact rather than being involved in the process. Ms. Torriente thinks that there is an opportunity for the various board members to have input in the decision-making process by having them sit on other boards and sharing their knowledge with those boards. She also notes that the Office of Sustainability is in the process of examining ordinances and that this can be shared with SAB to see what's on the City's plate. Mr. Ayers feels that the SAB can push items that the City is interested in developing or revising. Mr. Moyer says we are an external voice (voice

of the public) and that as an objective third party we should be part of the review. Ms. Alberani agrees with this and says that each board should have a Sustainability person involved and we should be proactive in applying environmental impacts in any review. Mr. Hetzel suggests applying the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) to any proposed applicants or developments and having a checklist for the developer to show where their plan meets the SAP and let the SAB provide feedback or comments to the application. Ms. Torriente says to stay tuned to the integration of the two plans - Vision and Strategic Plan – with what the boards do.

Ms. Torriente met with DRC and other departments and shared to them the Adaptation Action Area (AAA) to them to guide them in the decision-making process. Mr. Thitisawat suggests the boards should consider sea level rise and plan for the future.

#### **4. Staff Liaison Report– Presented by Heather Steyn**

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

The application was submitted and received by the Foundation. The City of Fort Lauderdale and the City of Miami Beach and the City of Miami along with five hundred other cities applied and are contenders for the award. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> Rockefeller has an Innovation Forum where they will be partnering with the Clinton Global Initiative and this will be the time frame where the first 25 winning cities that be awarded as part of the challenge will be announced. Each City receives \$1,000,000 for a Resiliency Officer and assistance. In January through June 2014, the second round will begin where another 25 cities will be announced and hopefully by 2017 all 100 cities will be announced and the network will be fully established. She has shared a copy of the City's application with the SAB. New Orleans is the pilot city for the challenge and a technology firm called Palamir is assisting them. They will be creating a resiliency dashboard that the other cities will be able to use once they are awarded their challenge.

##### **Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)**

Ms. Steyn notes that the wind turbines and charging stations will be installed at Mills Pond by the end of the year. The Sun-Sentinel wrote up on this. Ms. Torriente says that there will be a charging station placed here at City Hall but it will not have a wind turbine attached to it. They will be working with Transportation and Mobility to determine future sites. Ms. Leonard notes that there are two charging stations over at Utilities but those are for City fleet vehicles. The public will pay to use the machines at Mills Pond. Ms. Torriente says that there will be proper signage at the site explaining how the wind will be used, etc.

Ms. Whitfield suggests that the City considers using Natural Gas in their vehicles. There is a local vendor who provides natural gas. Ms. Leonard notes that the city has put out a solid waste ITB that required the winning vendor's vehicles to convert their vehicles to use alternative fuels within two years of the start of the contract.

Ms. Steyn notes that the LED lights are being installed in City Hall. There are about 900 fixtures to be replaced and there will be a \$21,000 cost saving per year.



### **PACE**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Broward County passed the PACE program for residential and commercial properties. They are still working out the details on that program. The roll out is expected to be in six months. Ms. Torriente notes that Broward County will be using the programs from Miami-Dade or West Palm Beach. It will be similar to the Go-Solar program.

### **Conservation Pays Update**

This is the third year for the program. The County has issued about \$350,000 in rebates and the City of Fort Lauderdale has issued 478 rebates (which was our target number).

### **Agricultural Ordinance Communication**

The communication was submitted and will be presented to Commission. Ms. Eckels suggests that each member go to the pre-commission meeting with their Commissioner to make sure they are aware of the communication.

### **Parklet Program**

The Parklet program was inspired by San Francisco's activity in 2010 where parking spaces are converted to a small park. There are two applications pending – Gran Forno on Las Olas and Tarpon Bend. Chair Amor asks why streets that had speeds greater than 25 mph weren't used in the pilot areas and Ms. Torriente notes that this is a pilot program. She's met with DSD on this program and has stressed to them that is a learning experience. If the SAB wants to weigh in on this, that would be welcome. Ms. Torriente thinks the pilot program is for a year and Ms. Steyn will follow up on the success.

### **Broward Boulevard Gateway Plan**

The Sun-Sentinel has written about turning Broward Boulevard into a main street as well as expanding the tunnel area. The gateway implementation plan has five districts under discussion including Riverbend (WalMart), North Fork, Broward Boulevard Core, Arts and Entertainment and Downtown. There is discussion about expanding Tri-rail. The Broward Boulevard plan includes wider bike paths and making it more pedestrian friendly. There are several partners in this possible development. This plan was presented to Commission and there was a positive reception. Mr. Ayers asks about funding and Ms. Steyn notes that the City is trying to secure the funding for this Gateway plan. Chair Amor questions why the potential roundabout would be located at Fifth Avenue. Ms. Steyn suggests that perhaps we could have the planner (Renee Cross) of the early phase come in to the next meeting. Ms. Torriente agrees that this may be a good idea. Ms. Torriente also says that there have been two public meetings and the next time it will go before Commission but she is not sure which agenda it will be going on.

### **Las Olas Plaza**

There is a possibility of expanding the street for a more pedestrian friendly zone and expanding the plaza to the north.

### **City's Landscape Ordinance**

City staff will attend next month's meeting. They are using the Broward County ordinance as a model. Chair Amor asks for the approved plant list that Broward County uses and Ms. Steyn will get that list.

### **Rain Tree**

No permits have been pulled yet. There is no movement on this. Mr. Cook asks for a contact number to discuss the tree moving.

## **5. Old Business**

### **Orlando's Urban Chickens**

Mr. Hetzel just wanted to give the presentation that he saw at the Orlando conference. No further comments.

## **6. New Business (Continued)**

### **Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)**

The plan is over 300 pages and it is noted that it is a bunch of little pieces that fit into a puzzle. Mr. Ayers noted that it's hard to determine what the big picture is. Ms. Steyn notes that it changes all the time. He asks whether a small street call Sunset Drive will be getting the buried lines (undergrounding) as part of the Riviera Isles program. Mr. Cook notes that they are currently conducting a study of how much undergrounding will cost.

Chair Amor asks how these CIP items fit with the SAP. She wants to know how each program is affected by the SAP. Ms. Torriente notes that the City is changing and updating how we do projects. For example, in the parking lot by City Hall, we had previously used a permeable pavement material and now we are trying permeable concrete. It is an ongoing process in changing how we approach plans and develop the various projects. Ms. Torriente is integrating sustainability into all the departments she supervises. She would be happy to send the matrix that the City used to grade the projects. They did a white paper and did a presentation to Commission to revamp the process. In January, the departments will fill in their applications and submit them to the Budget office and then they will be presented to the CIP to see how sustainability has been incorporated into the project. A lot of ordinances are being revamped to modernize the way the City approaches the way they do business. She would be happy to provide the white paper and matrix to SAB to show how they developed the new CIP program.

Ms. Whitfield asks about Bioswales and Ms. Torriente notes that they have been working on stormwater elements and they plan on doing a stormwater presentation to Commission in January. Bioswales and green infrastructure will be part of this program.

Chair Amor asks about the landscape ordinance and whether it will be passed by the next meeting. Ms. Torriente has not seen the City's ordinance but she notes that she had spoken to Dr. Jurado at Broward County and that Broward had created the ordinance so that cities could just adopt it if they wished.

Ms. Torriente suggests that when the SAB develops their agenda, staff could be invited for a specific topic to answer questions on that topic. From time to time, we could bring in staff who are involved in other projects to discuss what they are doing. They are creating job positions in the various

departments that incorporate sustainability into their plans. Ms. Eckels commends the City for such positive steps in a new direction.

Ms. Torriente traveled to Durbin (South Africa) through the ICMA to present what they've done in South Florida and how governments to work together. Deborah Roberts from Durbin will be at the upcoming SE Florida Regional Climate Summit. She will be a keynote speaker at the Summit. Ms. Torriente also notes that the San Francisco Bay area is studying the Climate Compact model that our region created to see what could be applied to their area. Ms. Torriente also traveled to the Netherlands to discuss the Compact. She notes that we can make smart investments in the short term (5 years) and the long term plans.

Ms. Torriente notes that there will be a large presentation on November 13<sup>th</sup> to kickoff the Green Team to let them know how they fit into the City, the Compact, the region, and internationally. She is thinking about having a meeting with SAB and the Green Team to see what roles everyone has.

Mr. Cook asks about permitting a ground-mounted rack for a solar array. He notes that there isn't an ordinance for this. Ms. Torriente notes that many of these ordinances were written many years ago and these need to be updated. Something like this would be good to know as to which parts of the code or ordinances are outdated and she welcomes suggestions. Mr. Cook suggests creating a green code to incorporate sustainability.

There is a discussion about the SAB communication to Commission on the Agricultural Ordinance. If you can't attend the 11/5 Commission meeting, please attend your commissioner's pre-commission meeting the night before to discuss this. Ms. Torriente asks if the Agricultural Ordinance is the most pressing one for SAB. Ms. Eckels says that the Agricultural Ordinance relates to making sustainable communities and although this was passed a year ago, they needed to revisit it to improve upon it. Perhaps the SAB needs to know what ordinances or codes the City will be examining for revisions or amendments. Ms. Torriente notes that the City has limited resources that they can devote and must focus on the priorities that the Commission sets out once a year.

## **7. Mark Your Calendar (Events)**

Ms. Steyn notes the SE Florida Regional Climate summit will be November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th. There is a town hall meeting that is open to the public. Chair Amor will be attending EcoDistricts in Boston and GreenBuild in Philadelphia.

Ms. Alberani notes that the Sea Level Rise Summit and Tropical Cities were well attended.

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

Ms. Eckels notes that the City has installed power-saving equipment in the water plants and she asks that the vendor be invited to speak to SAB about their technology. The company is POM Energy Concepts and they produce PowerGuard. They have a commercial product and residential product. She will e-mail Ms. Steyn the information.

Chair Amor mentions the Trash-to-Art event on December 10<sup>th</sup> and two models from her summer camp will be on display.

## **9. Public Comment:**

None.

**10. Committee Comments:**

Mr. Hetzel likes the fact that the Office of Sustainability has a work plan and would like to have it presented to the SAB. Ms. Torriente says that the work plan is based on the SAP, the Vision Plan and the Strategic Plan and would welcome input from the SAB.

Ms. Whitfield suggests the City looks at GlobalBEM (Breakthrough Energy Movement) and perhaps sponsor an upcoming conference. They look at upcoming energy alternatives and are funded by crowd-funding.

**11. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. **Motion** made by Ms. Whitfield. Seconded by Mr. Lentner.

**Next meeting date:** November 25, 2013

[Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Johnston]

