

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th FLOOR
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
January 27, 2014 – 6:30 PM**

				Cumulative Attendance 1/2014 through 12/2014	
MEMBERS	APPT By	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT	
1. Valerie Amor, Chair	M	P	1	0	
2. Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	II	A	0	1	
3. Daniel Ayers	M	P	1	0	
4. Steven Cook	I	P	1	0	
5. Vicki Eckels	IV	P	1	0	
6. Darin Lentner	IV	A	0	1	
7. Jim Moyer	III	P	1	0	
8. Mate Thitisawat	C	P	1	0	
9. Jim Hetzel	I	P	1	0	
10. Vacant	II	-	-	-	
11. Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	1	0	

Also Present

City Staff – Sustainability Division of Public Works

Dr. Nancy Gassman, Sustainability Manager

Heather Steyn, Sustainability Specialist

Call of Order/Roll Call

Chair Amor called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Amor noted edits to the minutes of the November 25, 2013 meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Eckels and seconded by Ms. Whitfield to approve these minutes with the correction. In a voice vote, the Board motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nancy Gassman Introduction

Chair Amor welcomed Dr. Nancy Gassman as the new Sustainability Manager for the City. Dr. Gassman spoke about her environmental background; which included her tenure with Broward County and involvement with the SE Florida Regional Compact. The SAB members introduced themselves and discussed their professional backgrounds with Dr. Gassman.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Steyn discussed the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the SAB.

Motion made by Ms. Eckels and seconded by Ms. Whitfield to reelect Chair Amor and Vice Chair Alberani. In a voice vote, five members voted in favor and two were opposed. Motion was passed.

Ms. Steyn provided highlights of the following announcement/events:

- Board reappointments – all members who had been up for reappointment were confirmed by the Clerk's office.
- Wind Turbines – there was coverage in both the newspaper and on TV.
- City Climate Adaptation Strategies – Sun-Sentinel published an article on this.
- Air Potato Roundup Event – Miami Herald published an article about the roundup held last weekend. It was great time for the kids.
- Florida Green Building Coalition GOLD Certification - the award presentation will be at the February 4th Commission Meeting and all are welcome to attend.
- Riverwalk article from Jenni Morejon about Sustainable Development and climate change.
- NOAA Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities – Dr. Gassman gave an overview. The majority of attendees were City oriented and all departments had representatives.
- Climate Adaptation Open House – Adaptation Action Areas (AAA) focused on designating areas that need infrastructure improvements. It will help the City prioritize the funding for these areas. It was an open house and a good way for neighbors to find out about the AAA.
- Stormwater Management – City Commission Presentation discussed stormwater issues and aging infrastructure and the Stormwater master plan which includes bioswales, tidal valve controls, etc.
- Sustainability Stewards – a Broward County initiative. The first workshop will be at the City of Lauderhill in February. They have also a Florida Climate Institute Survey.
- Sun Trolley has expanded into downtown.
- The City is seeking ideas and there is a link on the City's website.
- Rain Tree Status – Chair Amor asks on the status of the Rain Tree. Ms. Steyn will inquire on the permit status and inform the board.

Old Business

Agricultural Ordinance/Urban Farming

Chair Amor created a document on behalf of the SAB to define the changes and recommendations line by line per the Commission's request.

Chair Amor

She gave this document to two agencies in Broward County to get their feedback/recommendations. The agencies are: Broward County Planning and Redevelopment Division and Florida Department of Health (Broward division). Both agencies are still reviewing the document.

Ms. Whitfield

She reported that a building at NE 1st Avenue and NE 6th Street was being rehabbed as a community center and there is a non-profit building raised boxes for gardens.

Ms. Eckels

She suggested the order of the Word document be revised to first list the group or agency that provided feedback before the revisions to the ordinance are outlined. She requested that we include a summary of other cities (i.e., Dania Beach, Oakland Park) that have permitted urban farming/community gardens.

Mr. Ayers

He agreed that the submission of this Word document should be postponed until we get feedback from the two agencies.

Mr. Moyer

He suggested that we invite Commissioner Trantalis to the next SAB meeting so that we can discuss what exactly we are trying to do with the agricultural ordinance.

Mr. Cook

He expressed concern about including hens and raised the question about feed storage – rat issue.

Mr. Hetzel

Asks for clarification in the ordinance revision on the size of the plots (i.e., less than 4000 sq. ft.) for site approval.

Mr. Thitisawat

He asked whether we should have comments included in our strike-outs/additions to show our reasoning for the revisions.

Motion made by Mr. Cook to table the agricultural ordinance revision for three months. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ayers for discussion. Motion is amended by Mr. Ayers so that the revision is tabled for three months but a discussion of updates to the Word document be allowed for 20 minutes in each meeting. In a voice vote, five members approved the motion and three opposed it. Amended motion was passed.

New Business

Ms. Steyn talked about the 2014 SAB Initiatives and their relationship with the 2014 Commission Action Plan and the Strategic Plan. Dr. Gassman discussed the various goals in the 2014 Commission Action Plan as well as those included in the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is currently online. There was a discussion about how the SAB could focus their goals for the coming year based on these documents.

Mr. Hetzel and Mr. Thitisawat suggested that the SAB goes through the Strategic Plan and pick out what they would like the Commission focus on for 2015.

Mark Your Calendar (Events)

There is a brief discussion of upcoming events: Neighbor Support Night, Household Hazardous Waste, Economic Development meeting, Community Appearance Board Awards, NOVA Energy, Climate Disruption and Sea Level Rise Symposium, National Climate Assessment Workshop, Broward County Six Pillars event, USGBCSF Ecotourism and Green 5k events, Sustainable You Conference.

The Board mentions an additional event: Broward Food Cooperative at Flagler Farm in February.

Communication to Commission

Ms. Whitfield

She discussed the Walmart store that is coming to Broward Boulevard. She noted that Walmart has a Global Sustainability Plan but is not sure if the Commissioners or Department of Sustainable Development were aware of this.

Ms. Eckels and Mr. Ayers

They suggested that Ms. Whitfield draft a communication to Commission requesting that any plan put forward by Walmart has sustainable elements in it based on Walmart's Global Sustainability Plan – including a possible LEED building certification.

Mr. Hetzel

He suggested that Ms. Steyn find out the status of the approval phase at the City level and at our next meeting the Board can put together a communication advising the City of the issue and request that the information is forwarded to City staff.

Items for Next Meeting:

None.

Public Comment:

None.

Committee Comments:

Chair Amor

She was invited to the National Climate Workshop in Washington, D.C. and will update the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Ayers

He will be traveling to the Netherlands to look at their water management techniques.

Mr. Moyer

He will be meeting at the Homeless Workshop this week. He asked that the Board support the City in adopting an ordinance on clothing recycling boxes. The City of Miramar has recently adopted a similar ordinance.

Mr. Thitisawat

He announced that the Florida Atlantic University Boca campus will be having a lecture regarding lighting and wildlife and this may relate to turtles. He will send the details to Ms. Steyn.

Ms. Whitfield

She would like to have a natural gas representative do a presentation to the Board at the next meeting if the representative is back in town at that time.

Mr. Cook

He would like an update on the Multi-family recycling at the next meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Next meeting date: February 24, 2014

[Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Johnston]