

**FINAL**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301**  
**April 28, 2014 – 6:30 PM**

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

**Also Present**

City Attorney's Office

D'Wayne Spence, Assistant City Attorney

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Jim Koeth, Principal Environmental Strategist

Adrienne Ehle, Environmental Analyst

Heather Steyn, Sustainability Specialist

**Call of Order/Roll Call**

Chair Amor called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present. Mr. Moyer arrived at 7:21pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Amor noted an edit to the minutes of the March 24, 2014 meeting.

**Motion** made by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Mr. Lentner to approve these minutes with the correction. In a voice vote, the Board motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Liaison Report**

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

- Board Vacancies – Welcome to new Board member, Jim Wood (appointed by Commissioner Trantalis). Mr. Hetzel has resigned from the board since he will be joining the City of Fort Lauderdale as a planner.

- Sustainability Division Announcement – Ms. Leonard has been promoted to the Transportation and Mobility Department (TAM) as their Deputy Director. Dr. Gassman is the Acting Public Works Director – Sustainability Division.
- Information Exchange – The Facebook page has been closed and all communications will be through e-mails to the Board.
- Renourish Fort Lauderdale – There were about 70-80 people at the event on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Snyder Park including some SAB members. They planted 293 bushes and shrubs in one-acre of the park.
- FPL Pilot Program – The City was selected for a pilot program for a solar facility and several areas are under consideration within the City.
- All-American City – The City was selected for the second year in a row to participate in the finals competition. Last year the City won the most diverse culture award.

### **Adaptation Action Areas Presentation**

- Mr. Koeth presented the Adaptation Action Areas (AAA) Pilot Project which the Sustainability Division has been working on for the past year. Originally the project was a NOAA grant and the City has partnered with the South Florida Regional Planning Council and Broward County. AAA is an optional comprehensive plan designation for areas that experience coastal flooding and are vulnerable to the related impacts of rising sea levels to enable the prioritizing of funding for infrastructure and adaptation planning.
- On January 21, 2014 the City held an open house and panel discussion on climate adaptation and AAA in order to introduce the draft policy language for comment. Fifty-two of our neighbors and a few of the Commissioners were present. The City wants to link the Vision Plan with implementation (the “We Are Ready” chapter – We Are a Resilient Coastal Community). They want to incorporate this concept into other city plans such as the stormwater plan and hazard mitigation plan.
- Mr. Ayers asked if actual areas have been identified yet. Mr. Koeth stated that the current activity is to set the stage for future actions. Mr. Ayers then asked if the AAA was to make the City more resilient to unforeseen weather events or to try to address climate change and reduce temperature rise as much as possible. Mr. Koeth responded that they are just setting the stage at this point but that can be brought forward.
- Chair Amor asked if the language in the draft policy is taken from the Comprehensive Plan or new language. Mr. Koeth stated that it was new language. Mr. Ayers asked if the new language is consistent with the SE Florida Climate Action Plan and Mr. Koeth agrees that it is.
- Mr. Wood asked if funding has been addressed and Mr. Koeth stated that it has not yet been addressed by the City. Mr. Wood also asked about saltwater intrusion and whether that will be included in the plan. Mr. Koeth stated that this topic could be considered for the plan.
- Chair Amor asked when Mr. Koeth would need comments back to him from the SAB. He can add their comments and he could put it in the backup materials. The AAA will be going to the Planning & Zoning board in three weeks.

## **New Business**

### **Genetically Engineered Food Labeling**

- Ms. Machado is the Florida organizer for Food and Water Watch. There are over 30,000 members in the State of Florida and Fort Lauderdale has over 600 members. She is asking for SAB support on helping their group in passing a local resolution to labeling genetically engineered foods. She has provided a sample resolution that mimics the resolution passed in Albuquerque NM and Cincinnati, OH which both have passed this resolution. Maine, Vermont and Connecticut have also passed a similar resolution. This deals with post-seed genetically modified food.
- Organic farmers do not want cross-pollination with crops that are genetically modified. It is important for consumers and farmers to know which are genetically modified so that they can make informed decisions.
- Chair Amor recommended that Ms. Machado use more up-to-date support articles. She felt that the resolution should be stronger and recommended that Ms. Machado return to the board at the next meeting with a stronger package that can be brought before Commission. Mr. Ayers agreed with this recommendation. Mr. Cook recommended that the resolution be more succinct and to put the backup with it.

### **Geoengineering Resolution**

- Ms. Whitfield discussed geoengineering spraying in the sky and discussed the ordinance Pasadena passed in the 1990s not allowing helicopters to spray in their border. She talked about various spraying events occurring over the City of Fort Lauderdale. She would like to know what is being sprayed in the City.
- She discussed a resolution that the premier of British Columbia presented to stop geoengineering within Canadian borders.
- If there is support with the SAB, she will return next month with a draft resolution regarding geoengineering spraying and climate control. Chair Amor suggested that the resolution be changed to reflect American rather than Canadian terminology. Mr. Wood asked if the Clean Air Act would provide some legal recourse on this issue. Mr. Spence suggested that the board could file a Freedom of Information Act request to the Federal government to find out who is spraying over the City.

### **Board Communications**

- Mr. Ayers suggested that since each member has done varying research on topics that are current, perhaps they could package this research with a cover letter to Commission to show them sustainability matters that the Board is considering. He would like to do a presentation of the UN climate report at the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Outcome of SAB Communications (April 15<sup>th</sup>)**

- Ms. Steyn reported on the two SAB communications. The first communication on the Innovative Technology is pending. Commission would like to see the results of the completion of the pilot program at GTL wastewater treatment plant. In addition the future ESCO contractor will be tasked to provide recommendations on this procedure.

- Ms. Steyn stated that the second communication on the Agriculture Ordinance is also pending. The item will be discussed at the FY 2015 Commission Annual Action Plan and determine whether or not it will make on the plan as a priority. The final decision will be in the next two months. Chair Amor noted that Commissioner Roberts presented her with the Chicken and the Egg article. She suggested to him about taking a tour of an urban farm and what it took to raise hens.

### **Communication to Commission**

- Chair Amor discussed sending a communication commending the City on their recent achievements. A majority of the board agreed that this was a good idea. The board would like Chair Amor to prepare the communication to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Public Comment**

- Mr. Arroyo is a farmer at Tree Hugger Organic Farms. He expressed his concerns about genetically modified labeling. He agreed that the City should pass a resolution on this. Mr. Laws who also works at Tree Hugger Organic Farms expressed his support for the genetic engineering resolution.
- Mr. Long who also works at Tree Hugger Organic Farms asked Mr. Koeth for additional information on AAA which he will be provided to him after the meeting.

### **Committee Comments:**

Mr. Cook

He asked about his friend's billing issue. Ms. Steyn suggested that Mr. Cook e-mail the person and copy her on the e-mail.

Mr. Ayers

He asked that Ms. Steyn discuss the sustainability web portal and she suggested that perhaps the person working on the site could be invited to speak at to the board in the next few months.

Mr. Wood

He joined the board to raise issues that he sees.

Mr. Lentner

Announced his marriage this past weekend.

Ms. Whitfield

Welcomes Mr. Wood.

Chair Amor

She discussed the grant she received called A Railroad Runs Through It. She is presenting in Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Fort Lauderdale (ArtWalk) and Dania Beach and invites the board to attend.

Mr. Moyer

Listened to a presentation last month in Hollywood similar to Chair Amor's Railroad grant.

### **Items for Next Meeting:**

#### Potential Presentation(s)

- Genetically Engineered Foods – Presentation and resolution – Ms. Machado

- UN Climate Presentation (IPCC) –Mr. Ayers and Third National Climate Assessment – Chair Amor
- City Website/Sustainability Portal – Ms. Stadlander

Forthcoming Discussions

- Chair Amor – Communication about recent City achievements
- Mr. Cook billing issues – paper bills when on autopay
- Ms. Whitfield would like to discuss an edible food park (like Seattle)

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

**Next meeting date:** May 29, 2014 – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

[Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Johnston]