

FINAL
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th Floor Conference Room
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
May 29, 2014 – 6:30 PM

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

Also Present

Transportation and Mobility

Diana Alarcon, Director
 Karen Mendrala, Livability Planner

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Dr. Nancy J. Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability Division
 Heather Steyn, Sustainability Specialist, SAB Staff Liaison
 Rivana Stadlander, Administrative Assistant I

Presenter – Genetically Engineered Food Legislation
 Vickie Machado, Food & Water Watch, Florida organizer

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. Mr. Moyer arrived at 6:37pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Amor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2014 meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Eckels and seconded by Ms. Alberani to approve these minutes. 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, William Goetz (appointed by Commissioner Roberts).
- Sustainability Division Announcement –Dr. Gassman has been appointed the Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability Division.
- Information Exchange – The City received a top ten Greenest Mid-sized City award (5th out of 10) and was recognized for walkability and parks. Government Fleet Magazine recognized our City Fleet Services as a Notable Fleet for 2014.
- Sustainable Stewards of Broward Workshop – The City hosted the workshop focused on green fleets. Approximately 50 people attended, Following presentations, a Green Fleet Showcase, was held in the City Hall parking lot..
- ICMA City Links Exchange Program – Dr. Gassman was the staff liaison chosen by the City to travel to Legazpi, Philippines and participated in an assessment on climate resiliency. The Philippines delegation will be coming here to Fort Lauderdale June 16-20.
- City We Are Wild Program – The City is striving to become a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. We need 639 properties to be certified. Currently, we have 250 properties that are certified. Ms. Eckels is a member of the Certified Community Wildlife Habitat Board.
- Adaptation Action Area – The policy language was passed unanimously with no revision at the Planning & Zoning Board meeting.
- Landscape Ordinance Amendment – On June 17, city staff will present to Commission the benefits of using Florida-friendly landscaping practices. This will show Commission the long-term benefits of water conservation and will meet the initiatives in the City's Strategic Plan. This presentation will serve as a precursor to future amendments to City ordinances.

Presentations

City Transportation & Mobility Initiatives Presentation

- Ms. Diana Alarcon, Director of the City's Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department, discussed the sustainable master plan for the Parking Division. At the City Hall lot, Titan America installed Pave Drain which can hold 6" of water below the pavers to reduce flooding issues. The City Hall site was the first time the product was used South Florida. The first major installation for on-street parking will be in Victoria Park. Dr. Goetz suggested the use of geosynthetics for water flow and to support structures on loose soil.
- The International Parking Institute (IPI) held their 2013 conference in Fort Lauderdale with 4500 participants. The IPI has a Green Parking Council to develop sustainable practices and partnered with the City in order to create a sustainable parking lot (Orchid lot at City Hall). Products such as solar reflective surfaces reduced the heat island effect by 40% and the surface will be applied to other surface lots within the City. They are also doing sustainable lighting (installing LED or solar-powered lights) at various parking lots.
- She would like to partner with FPL and add solar canopies to all their parking garages which would provide solar lighting and electric car charging.

- TAM added bicycle racks at various locations to encourage people to ride their bikes around. They will have 68 bicycle racks installed by the end of this year.
- The first permanent parklet will be going in front of Gran Forino this year. The City had a temporary parklet installed a few months ago.
- TAM installed solar parking meters at various sites within the City and will be installing more. They will also be installing inground sensors in parking lots that have an App tied to it to show you where to park. Ms. Alarcon spoke about the electric charging stations – including the one at City Hall and Mills Pond Park. They plan to install more stations in the future.
- She discussed how they are considering reduced parking charges for mopeds and motorcycles but this will have to be modified through the City's code.
- Ms. Mendrala, TAM's Livability Planner, discussed Complete Streets which will add shade, bike lanes, etc., to various streets in the city to create greater transportation options, reduce greenhouse gases, affect stormwater runoff and hopefully improve the overall health and safety of citizens.
- The City has been ranked as one of the worst locations in the U.S. for pedestrian and bike accidents and the City's goal is to improve citizen safety. The City Commission has adopted the Complete Streets policy and TAM has created a manual with standards for what they want to include on those streets. They are finalizing their multimodal connectivity program (the implementation program for Complete Streets). Ms. Mendrala was the author of the award-winning Complete Streets program (third best policy in the nation).
- The City is now working on the design for NE 13th Street that will become a Complete Street. They have received a \$1.5M grant from Broward County to revamp this location. They are retrofitting existing streets and enhancing existing projects including FDOT projects.
- They are reaching out to FDOT to add bike lanes, etc., to their projects such as Powerline Road. She discussed various sites within the City that they are planning to revamp as Complete Streets. They are also working with Public Works to add bioswales to construction projects where feasible, shade trees and adding solar-powered or LED street and pedestrian lights.
- They have expanded the Sun Trolley routes and have added the Uptown link with access to Tri-Rail at Cypress Creek Road.
- Ms. Alarcon discussed the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). They are working on a sustainable master plan and an Environment Sustainable Management System is being developed for the airport later this fall. They are doing sustainable practices for runway lighting replacement (LED lighting) and they are building the Customs & Border Protection facility which will be Silver LEED certified.

- Some future strategies for the Department include converting their fleet, continuing conversion all their parking meters to solar, multimodal connectivity for bikes, cars, mass transit and pedestrian. The Wave Streetcar is currently in design mode.
- Chair Amor discussed the green bike stripe issue and suggested that there should be a barrier in place. Ms. Alarcon responded that they must follow State laws for this aspect. They are researching to see best practices in other locations to see if state legislation can be changed.

City Sustainability Portal Project

- Ms. Stadlander presented a preview of the Green Your Routine website and the "Story Map" feature which is a GIS application allowing one to explore green topics within the City. It tells the story of sustainability in Fort Lauderdale – both public and private. There are three tabs to the website – Get Inspired – Get Informed – Get Involved.
- The Green Your Routine website that is currently on the City's website will have a comprehensive section on Climate Resiliency.
- The site allows citizens to upload their own photos and tell their own stories. There can be up to 99 thumbnails that people will be able to click on in each layer. Ms. Stadlander displayed several thumbnails and their links.
- Ms. Stadlander discussed the location on the site where people could find out about sustainable actions that they could do – sea turtles, butterfly gardens, etc.
- There are an additional 10-12 stories that are in development and she has 30-40 more under consideration.
- She will be providing a link to the Board so that they can review the Portal and give her feedback.

Genetically Engineered Food Legislation

- Ms. Machado is the Florida organizer for Food & Water Watch. She discussed Genetically Engineered (GE) foods (also termed Genetically Modified foods(GMO)). This is biotechnology to insert genes into food. She spoke about the fact that most foods are not labeled if they are GE.
- Since 2011, the FDA has approved 12 new genetically engineered crops. The first genetically engineered crop appeared in 1996. In Florida, they are interested in genetically engineering oranges and papaya. Long-term tests on their health effects on humans have not been performed. A second concern is that organic farmers could have cross-contamination from GE crops. She noted that GE crops do not produce more output than regular crops.
- She discussed having State labeling for GE crops and they are working on grassroots methods to have the discussion about adding GE labeling to crops within the State of Florida.

- Sixty bills in 23 states have been introduced and Connecticut has passed a bill but they require that adjoining states have to have labeling laws. Vermont is the only state that has passed a bill with no adjacency clauses. The effective date is 2016 for the Vermont law.
- The State of Florida had a bill in the House and Senate but neither has passed. Food & Water Watch is trying to pass local resolutions so that they can gain support for the bills to be reintroduced to the House and Senate.
- Mr. Ayers agreed that a local resolution would be a good beginning. Dr. Goetz was concerned with the "whereas" part of the resolution. Chair Amor asked for a motion to approve this resolution.

Motion made by Mr. Ayers and seconded by Ms. ?TBD. The Board voted and the motion passed with one dissent.

New Business/Discussion

- The two items on the agenda – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change along with Sustainability Development Goals at the United Nations (Mr. Ayers) and National Climate Assessment (Chair Amor) - will be postponed to the next meeting.
- Ms. Whitfield's resolution on Geoengineering and the discussion of urban forest for complete streets will be put on the next meeting as well.

Old Business

- Chair Amor will postpone the City Achievements communication for the moment.

Board Communications

At the May 29th Sustainability Advisory Board meeting, the Board voted to support the local resolution proposed by the Food & Water Watch organization to label genetically engineered foods or genetically modified organisms and encourage the Commission to do the same.

Motion: The Board voted unanimously to present the communication to Commission.

Public Comment

- None

Committee Comments:

Dr. Goetz

He asked to put a discussion of hybrid/electric vehicles. He cited a study by the National Academy of Sciences that concluded over the lifecycle of hybrid/electric vehicles that there is more harm to humans and the environment than conventional gas vehicles. The second item he'd like to discuss is the rollback of sustainable energy mandates.

Ms. Whitfield

Passed out a Clean Sky ordinance from Maui, Hawaii.

Mr. Thitisawat

He is interested in the Board presentations and would like to present in the future.

Chair Amor

She felt that 10 minutes per Board discussion should be sufficient. She asked that Board members who want to do a presentation or discussion provide the backup materials to the Board prior to the meeting at which it will be discussed/presented. She will be presenting at the GoSolar event.

Ms. Eckels

She is an ambassador for the Certified Wildlife Habitat community and will send a link to Ms. Steyn for distribution.

Ms. Alberani

She likes the new format for the meeting.

Mr. Ayers

He will be in the Netherlands for three weeks examining their water issues/solutions. He will do a presentation on this in the future.

No Comment

- Mr. Cook
- Mr. Lentner
- Mr. Moyer

Items for Next Meeting:

Potential Presentation(s)

- Sustainable Development Goals/UN Climate Presentation (IPCC) –Mr. Ayers
- Third National Climate Assessment – Chair Amor

Forthcoming Discussions

- Ms. Whitfield would like to discuss an edible food forest (like Seattle)
- Ms. Whitfield Geoengineering resolution

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Next meeting date: June 23, 2014 – 8th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

[Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Johnston]