

**FINAL**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Commission Chamber**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301**  
**August 25, 2014 – 6:30 PM**

				Cumulative Attendance 1/2014 through 12/2014	
MEMBERS	APPT BY	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT	
1. Valerie Amor, Chair	M	P	8	0	
2. Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	II	P	4	4	
3. Daniel Ayers	M	P	8	0	
4. Steven Cook	I	P	7	1	
5. Vicki Eckels	IV	P	6	1	
6. William Goetz	I	P	4	0	
7. Darin Lentner	IV	A	5	3	
8. Jim Moyer [arrived 7:33pm]	III	P	8	0	
9. Mate Thitisawat	C	P	5	3	
10. Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	8	0	
11. Jim Wood	II	A	3	2	

**Also Present**

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Dr. Nancy J. Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability Division  
 Heather Steyn, Sustainability Specialist, SAB Staff Liaison  
 Tyler Whitmire, Senior Management Fellow

**Call of Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Amor at 6:35 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minor corrections to the July 28, 2014 meeting minutes were requested and Chair Amor asked for a motion to approve the minutes of this meeting.

**Motion** made Ms. Eckels and seconded by Mr. Thitisawat to approve these minutes. In a voice vote, the Board motion passed unanimously.

**Presentations**

**FPL Pilot Program: Community Solar** - David Bates, FPL Development Group

Mr. Bates spoke approached the City a few months ago on a prospective new program that FPL was considering called community solar.

He gave examples of other FPL energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects. He discussed the three large solar plants that FPL completed through special legislation in 2008. They include: a 25MW plant in DeSoto, a 10MW plant at Kennedy Space Center and a 75MW thermal plant in Martin County. FPL participated in solar education in schools throughout the region. Many schools have 5 or 10 kW systems installed and students can log into a website to see the energy generation from those grids and learn more about renewable energy. FPL also installed a 25kW array at the Museum of Science and Discovery (MOSD) and this helped teach children about solar energy.

FPL is looking at different communities throughout Florida in which to establish a Community Solar Program. This is a solar array construction program supported by voluntary customer contributions. In mid-2015, customers can opt-in to the program and it will cost \$9.00/month. The money generated would be put back into the system to build more solar arrays. The number of installations will depend on customer participation. The new arrays will be 50kW -100 kW initially. This takes about 10,000-20,000 sq. ft. space. FPL plans to build 5 demonstration projects and Fort Lauderdale is one of the potential pilot sites.

A few potential locations in Fort Lauderdale include: George English Park (which would allow the site to be visible to passersby), War Memorial Auditorium (possible covered parking area), Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (visible to passersby), Mills Pond Park (not very visible from I-95 and no central location for people to see it once inside the park), and the City Hall garage (but there is a shade issue here). Once they choose a site, they would pay a lease to the site to a particular city. They would like to start design and construction in early 2015.

Mr. Bates agreed that they are considering condos but they are focused on visibility and that's why they are considering ground-mounted or canopy systems. One Board member suggested alternative sites such as the BSO building, the new Wal-Mart, etc. Another Board member suggested the City's FiveAsh building near I-95 or the City's Fire Stations.

A Board member asked if residents contribute toward the FPL project whether they would actually be paying toward that particular solar array and Mr. Bates responded that they will build the arrays and look at where contributions come from. If FPL finds that they have more contributions in an area, they will consider building more arrays in that area.

This particular solar array program is designed to put the power back onto the grid and not provide discounts to the provider (i.e., residents or City of Fort Lauderdale). One Board member asked why Holiday Park was not on the list and Dr. Gassman responded that the sites were first vetted by City staff and their criteria evaluated the property use as well as impacts on existing structures and functions. Every site they recommended was canopy-mounted locations to preserve the use of the land and provide citizens with other benefits such as shade or heat island reduction.

FPL will be using local contractors for all solar projects. They will accept bids for their projects.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

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

- Climate Change Summer Camp Program – Parks & Recreation completed an 8-week curriculum on Climate Change for 900 summer youth campers. All campers received an Environmental Sustainability Steward certificate upon completion of the program.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) – The August 2<sup>nd</sup> event was held at Mills Pond Park. Four hundred and fifty-eight neighbors participated and almost three-quarters of the participants dropped off HHW. One hundred participants also dropped off electronics. Participating cities included Pompano Beach, Coconut Creek and Tamarac.

### **Presentation by SAB Members**

#### **Proposed Communication – Geoengineering Resolution**

Ms. Whitfield offered to postpone her presentation of the proposed communication until next meeting due to time constraints.

### **Old Business**

#### **GMO Labeling Resolution**

Ms. Steyn provided an extensive package to Board members for their review. This included a proposed resolution from Dr. Goetz on the topic which the Board members discussed. The Board discussed labeling that was found on food such as organic rice. They also talked about adding to the Food and Water Watch resolution wording that would encourage the development of a national certification program for labeling.

**Motion:** Made by Mr. Cook to support the Food and Water Watch resolution. Ms. Whitfield seconds it.

Mr. Ayers asked for discussion on the motion. He noted that you can research online whether or not something is GMO. It would not stop him from buying GMO products and he asked whether this resolution for GMO labeling is necessary. Ms. Alberani disagreed about not putting GMO labeling on a product because you shouldn't need to go online to see if a product is non-GMO or GMO. Dr. Goetz urged Board members to consider not labeling because labeling will cause prices to rise for those who cannot afford those increases. He proposed a resolution to make the FDA process transparent. Ms. Eckels stated that it is difficult to separate the resolution's labeling recommendation from what a GMO product is.

#### Public Comment [limited to one minute each]

- Mr. Mellard, South Florida Food and Water Watch - noted many countries in Europe have banned GMOs.
- Dr. Galko – stated people resisted food labeling 40 years and now it's the norm.

- Mr. Santiago, Tree Hugger Farms – the resolution is passing the buck to someone else. The FDA has one of the top Monsanto executives involved and he is concerned about giving them the power over labeling.
- Ms. Summers – concerned with consequences of GMO consumption later in life. She would like the option to make an informed decision.
- Ms. Machado, Food & Water Watch – She doesn't support Dr. Goetz's resolution.
- Ms. Teejay, Right to Know – concerned about the cost farmers have to pay to get the non-GMO labeling.
- Ms. Lazaro, Hallandale City Commissioner – They will be drafting an ordinance on this issue.
- Ms. Shapiro, GMO Free Florida and Food and Water Watch – She questioned that labeling products GMO-free will cost more – everything has labels.

[End of Public Comments]

Ms. Eckels questioned including the wording about farmers in the resolution and discussion ensued. Mr. Cook amended his motion to modify the resolution to include a change of the second whereas to state "is a labeling of genetically engineered foods serves to inform citizens" and removing the whereas clauses related to farmers/farms (items 6 and 7).

**Motion:** Mr. Cook modified his motion to reflect the changes mentioned above and Ms. Whitfield seconded that motion. The revised motion was that the Board supported this resolution (as modified) be transmitted to Commission for consideration. Motion passes 8-2.

A communication explaining the SAB's process would be the best way to transmit this resolution to Commission for consideration. Dr. Gassman did not feel that the 125 pages of backup documents needed to be transmitted with the resolution.

### **New Business/Discussion**

None.

### **Board Communications**

The draft communication for GMO labeling will include the timeline. Dr. Goetz's letter summarized the effort that has gone into the discussions.

Ms. Eckels began the draft communication. "Subsequent to your request to evaluate the GMO labeling resolution presented by Food and Water Watch as a citizen presentation at a Commission meeting, the SAB reviewed extensive independent research and discussed this topic in considerable depth over multiple meetings. We also heard from members of the public (add list here including the Farm Bureau). We believe the concerns of the public about GMO labeling should not be ignored. Therefore we respectfully submit the attached resolution for your consideration and support."

A voice vote was taken and the vote was 9-1 in favor of transmitting the communication.

**Committee Comments:**

Mr. Cook

- FLPD is reluctant to ticket cars that park on sidewalks and swales and he asked for support to correct this.

Ms. Alberani

- She asked for an update on the Florida Friendly Landscaping ordinance prior to the October meeting. This could be a Staff Liaison report.
- She spoke about a workshop on September 9<sup>th</sup> in Weston Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale regarding the effect of noise pollution on wildlife.

Ms. Eckels

- She discussed the FPL presentation held this evening. She did not see the benefit to residents of Fort Lauderdale and would like the Board to have a discussion at the next meeting. Dr. Gassman agreed that we can put it on the next meeting as Old Business.

Dr. Goetz

- He asked that the three handouts he gave out today on GMOs be attached to the minutes as part of the backup.

Mr. Ayers

- The UN will soon start the discussion for sustainability goals for 2015 and 2030 in September. He will be observing some of the meetings.

Ms. Whitfield

- She congratulated the Board in passing the GMO resolution.

Mr. Moyer

- He would like to discuss the issue of recycling clothing. It will be added to the potential future presentation list.

Chair Amor

- She stepped down as the Chair of the Board and is leaving the Board as a member effective this meeting.

No Comment

- Mr. Thitisawat
- Mr. Wood

**Items for Next Meeting:**

- Dr. Gassman asked the Board to specify the topics or presentations to include for the upcoming agenda.

Potential Presentation(s) for next meeting

- Food Forest – Ms. Whitfield
- Geoengineering Resolution – Ms. Whitfield
- No presentation on City Initiatives

Potential Presentation for Future Meeting

- We are Wild – Certified Wildlife Habitat.
- Hybrid Electrical Vehicles – Dr. Goetz – He would prefer to present before the November Fleet presentation.
- Clothing recycling – Mr. Moyer

Potential Discussions

- Old Business – FPL and benefits to the citizens of Fort Lauderdale for the solar array.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

**Next meeting date:** September 22, 2014 – 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall [Minutes prepared by M. Johnston]