

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
100 N ANDREWS AVE, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 6:15 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2020 through 2/2020					
	Members	Appt By	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Jason Liechty, Chair	IV	P	1	1
2	Elizabeth Adler, Vice Chair	M	P	1	1
3	Carol Tamburry	III	P	2	0
4	Carolann Mazza	III	P	2	0
5	Cushla Talbut	II	P	2	0
6	Douglas Meade	I	P	2	0
7	Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	P	1	1
8	Lawrence Clark	I	A	0	2
9	Muge Nurgun	II	P	2	0
10	Owen Cylke	C	P	2	0
11	Susan Wood	M	P	2	0

**Staff Present**

Stephanie Wilk, PW Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison  
Kimberly Pearson, Sustainability Coordinator  
Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager  
Estevan Baza, Sustainability Analyst

**Guests Present**

Priscilla Juranitch  
Thom Neff  
Suze Bailey and guest

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jason Liechty at 6:16 p.m. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

**Approval for Telephonic Attendance**

A motion to approve Susan Wood for telephonic attendance was made by Mr. Liechty and seconded by Ms. Mazza. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were introduced. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Meade and seconded by Ms. Mazza. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

#### **New Staff Liaison Introduction**

Ms. Pearson introduced Stephanie Wilk as the new Sustainability Specialist with the City of Fort Lauderdale who will serve as the staff liaison for the Sustainability Advisory Board. Ms. Wilk shared that she has been with the City of Fort Lauderdale for one year. She added that she comes from the Public Works Engineering Division and has a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Ms. Wilk has also been as a Zookeeper intern for several years. She is excited about her new role and to work with the Sustainability Advisory Board.

#### **City Commission Request to SAB to Consider Environmental Water Quality**

Mr. Hadwen explained that in the last City Commission meeting that the Commission discussed the topic of environmental water quality. He added that the Commission specifically asked for the SAB to assist by providing some recommendations on how the City should address water quality issues.

*Video Segment from February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 City Commission meeting was played.*

Chair Liechty asked if City staff could provide more specifics as to what the City Commission is asking of the Board. Mr. Hadwen stated that the request appears to be related to the impact of the recent sewer main breaks on the City's waterways. The Board discussed considering how frequently the tests are being done, how consistently, and asking for more information on the City Commission request. Ms. Pearson noted that during the SAB public forum, it was discussed that water testing generally only occurs in response to a sewer break or other specific event. Chair Liechty suggested the Board send a Communication to the Commission to ask for more clarity. In addition, he suggested that City staff present to the Board regarding the specifics of the water quality testing that is currently being done.

#### **SAB Public Forum Follow Up**

Staff will send out "Thank You" cards to the SAB Public Forum moderator and panelists. Chair Liechty said he would be happy to sign the cards.

### **New Business**

#### **SAB Public Forum Review and Discussion**

Ms. Mazza shared that the forum went very well and there was great public participation. She added that the presentations were very informative, and that panelist Joe O'Donnell was fantastic. Ms. Mazza

noted that she would like to expand on Joe O'Donnell's sustainable efforts within his business. She added that if we have ten or fifteen businesses that follow the Parrot Lounge's lead it would make a big impact.

The Board participated in an exercise in which they picked five priorities from the list of what the public submitted at the forum on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Each Board member voted on their top six. The following topics were chosen as the top five SAB focal points for 2020.

- Address sea level rise
- Establish an explicit Carbon reduction goal
- Reduce single use plastics and foam
- Provide more pervious and water storage areas in new development
- Provide reliable safe water supply and treatment

Chair Liechty noted that sea level rise was a very broad topic and that the Board can tackle aspects of that. He noted that having an explicit carbon reduction goal is something they can do. The Board also discussed addressing specific energy and renewable energy initiatives; becoming a net zero community; and learning about what the City is currently doing and what is on the horizon.

The Board discussed whether to generate a Communication to Commission summarizing the results of the forum. The Board and staff noted that the forum results were for the Board's own use to set its 2020 agenda but that a report back might be useful. The Board discussed the five major categories that the priorities fall under: Recycling, Greenhouse Gas and Energy, Transportation, Water Quality, Water and Infrastructure. It was observed that:

- Sea level rise is a major issue that shouldn't be ignored but there is not a major issue that the Board could tackle at this time,
- All of these issues can impact climate change and sea level rise, and
- The Board could ask the Commission to stop the use of Styrofoam and plastics from City-owned properties and its vendors even though it could not ban them Citywide.

The Board discussed tackling one of the top five priorities each month, providing goals and strategies. The Board suggested that they consider the following:

- Recommending that contracts and agreements include terms that the vendor or companies cannot have straws, plastic, use energy efficient vehicles, etc;
- Recommending sustainable practices such as energy requirements be incorporated during their procurement process when the City construct new facilities; and
- Water quality monitoring and testing as a topic for next month's meeting, inviting City staff to present on the topic of the current water quality monitoring and testing process.

The Board agreed on the following schedule of topics for 2020:

- March and April: Water Quality
- April, May and June: Carbon reduction goal and high-level strategies
- June and July: Reduction of single use plastics/foam
- August and September: Stormwater Management

### **Proposed Communications**

The board drafted the following communication to the City Commission:

*“The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) received the direction from the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, City Commission meeting to investigate and research water quality issues within the City of Fort Lauderdale. We have commenced our research by requesting a presentation from City staff at our March SAB meeting on current water quality testing procedures. In the meantime, please let us know if you have any specific issues you would like us to address.”*

A motion was made by Ms. Mazza to approve the communication and seconded by Mr. Meade. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Comments**

The Board asked for comments from SAB Guest, Susan Bailey, resident from Nurmi Isles, who explained that she believes the public wants more frequent and extensive water quality testing. She recalled that during the SAB public forum, it was discussed that once the City receives a test compliant with the standard, the City stops testing. Ms. Bailey explained that precautionary advisories to avoid water related recreational activities stop at the Rio Barcelona Canal, but that canal intersects with the Nurmi Isles canals. She added that there has not been any testing in the Nurmi Isles and the water is visibly dirty. Ms. Bailey requested that the City expand and perform more frequent water quality testing and air quality testing consistently until there are no more sewer main breaks. She also requested that the reports are easy to read and easily accessible.

### **Email Communications from Neighbor Priscilla Juranitch**

Chair Liechty addressed the email communication from neighbor Priscilla Juranitch regarding the docking of yachts near NE 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. The Board discussed the following:

- Her email expressed concerns that these vessels could be dumping pollutants into the water and their safety during storms;
- Regulation, jurisdiction, and permits for docking; and
- Obtaining more information on the specifics of this situation

Staff agreed to obtain and share more information on this issue.

Mr. Meade shared an idea about abandoned land along canals behind commercial buildings. He added that there is usually 5, 10, or 15 foot areas behind buildings that should be designated as wildlife areas. He suggested that the Board consider recommending that these areas be designated as a wildlife area. He noted that this could be enforced by the Community Enhancement and Compliance Division. Mr. Meade stated that he is not suggesting the City purchase this land, but they attempt to return it to a natural state and to preserve as much green space as possible. Chair Liechty suggested to add wildlife corridors to the list of potential future topics for the Board.

Ms. Nurgun explained to the Board that she knows an individual on the Resiliency Board with the Chamber of Commerce. She asked if she could share the Board's proposal that was sent to Commission for the Green Business Certification. The Board agreed that this would be okay because it is public record.

### **Items for Next Meeting**

The Board agreed to the following topics for the March 2020 SAB Agenda:

- Presentations
  - Current water quality testing process for the City of Fort Lauderdale {City of Fort Lauderdale Staff}
- New Business
  - Water Quality
- Old Business
  - City Commission request to SAB to consider environmental water quality
  - Email communications from Priscilla Juranitch regarding yacht docking behind homes

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Meade and seconded by Mr. Cylke to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.