

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting
July 27, 2020 - 6:15 PM**

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

Staff Present

Public Works Department

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

Guests Present

Andrew Abbott, Beach Bucket Foundation
 Cathern Uden, Oceana
 Phil Purcell, Marine Industries Association
 Megan Piggot, Marine Industries Association

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Wilk at 6:15 p.m. An announcement was made to explain the videoconferencing process. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for June 22, 2020 were introduced. Mr. Liechty asked to include the presentation in the minutes. With that change, a motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Wood and seconded by Ms. Meade. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Wilk shared details about the Broward Water Partnership's *Water Whiz Challenge*. She added that a resident from the City of Fort Lauderdale, Keefer Hershewe, was the individual challenge winner and was made into an animated character for an educational water conservation video. In addition, the City of Fort Lauderdale had the most participants and as a result, some iconic locations from the City of Fort Lauderdale were included in the video.

Mr. Hadwen added that at the City Commission meeting on July 7, 2020, the Commission directed the City Attorney to review a prohibition on single-use plastics and Styrofoam for City operations and properties. The relevant segment of the July 7, 2020 City Commission meeting video was then shared.

Presentations

Marine Industry: Protecting Water Quality in Fort Lauderdale

Mr. Phil Purcell, CEO of Marine Industries Association, presented on the marine industry protecting water quality in Fort Lauderdale. He shared that the Association recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Mr. Purcell informed the Board that Marine Industry Association (MIA) is the owner of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. He added that MIA organizes waterway cleanups that attract thousands of participants. Mr. Purcell shared that MIA created a video series titled "Salty Jobs" which educates the public about the industry and best practices. Mr. Purcell added that boaters are great environmental stewards and are attracted to the cleanliness, wildlife, and coral reefs found in our oceans and waterways. He explained that is why it is extremely important to the industry that best practices are followed. Mr. Purcell described the three different types of sanitation devices and which types are permitted to discharge into the water. He added that the industry follows local, state, and federal regulations. Breaking any of the water quality protection laws can result in hefty fines. Mr. Purcell explained that in Broward County, it is illegal to discharge raw and untreated water into the County's waters and can result in a fine of \$15,000 per day. Mr. Purcell noted that the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show attracts entrepreneurs all over the world and, therefore, there is an expectation of cleanliness. He emphasized that boaters are very conscientious and take water quality very seriously as it affects the industry.

A question and answer segment ensued.

The full presentation is attached.

New Business

Guest Speakers

Mr. Andrew Abbott introduced the Beach Bucket Foundation. He explained that he has created receptacles that contain buckets that people can pick up at the beach and gather trash and debris. He shared that the Beach Bucket Foundation has a one-year agreement with Palm Beach County and has two receptacle units in Carlin Park in Juniper, Florida. In addition, the City of Boynton Beach has agreed to add three units along their beach. Mr. Abbott stated that he markets it to local businesses to fund the materials by offering logo space. Mr. Abbott shared that the City or County staff who normally collects the waste on the beach would collect the waste from the buckets. Mr. Abbott visits each site once per week to maintain the buckets and the units. Mr. Abbott added that he believes this is a great opportunity to involve local businesses and create awareness. A question and answer segment ensued.

Catherine Uden representing Oceana shared information about their plastic reduction campaign. Ms. Uden emphasized that the plastic crisis is getting worse and plastic production is increasing. She urged that the City of Fort Lauderdale take action with legislation and that the time for voluntary measures has passed. Ms. Uden added that because of all the pre-emptions that exist, taking action locally is the fastest way to change. She shared that she met with Mayor Dean Trantalis and suggested that the City Commission take advantage of the current preemptions. She stated that the City can ban single use plastics and foam on City property. Ms. Uden emphasized how harmful Styrofoam is for human health. She added that it is not recyclable and breaks down into tiny pieces making it nearly impossible to clean up. Ms. Uden further stated that the production of these products causes significant greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. She added that normally waste facilities and incinerators are located in lower income neighborhoods, putting people's health at risk. Ms. Uden emphasized that alternative products are easy to find and that large companies have an entire line of alternative products. A question and answer segment ensued.

Old Business

City Commission Request to Consider Environmental Water Quality Issues

Mr. Liechty discussed the 2020 City Commission Top Priority Waterway Quality. He requested that City Staff present updates regarding Water Quality Priority at the August SAB meeting. Ms. Nurgun referred to Dr. Gassman's Water Quality presentation from the May 2020 SAB meeting and asked the Board if they wanted to explore one of the additional action items to consider, specifically boat discharges. Ms. Wilk reminded the Board that the Marine Advisory Board had approached the City Commission requesting that their Board form a subcommittee to investigate gray and black water from vessels. She added that due to meeting cancellations as a result of COVID-19, there have not been any updates regarding this matter. Mr. Liechty suggested that the Board draft a Communication to the City Commission at the August SAB meeting.

Sustainability Issues Regarding Yacht Docking Waivers Behind NE 20th Ave

Mr. Hadwen informed the Board that there is no update regarding this matter. Mr. Liechty suggested to leave this item under Old Business.

Proposed Communications

Mr. Liechty suggested these items be pushed to the August 2020.

Comments

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Presentation: Todd Hiteshow, Waterway Quality in Fort Lauderdale Updates.

Proposed Communications:

- Response to City Commission regarding environmental water quality issues
- Beach Bucket Foundation Proposal
- Commission Exploration of Plastic and Styrofoam Ban on City Property
- Support for the Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Revisions

Old Business: Sustainability Issues Regarding Yacht Docking Waivers Behind NE 20th Ave

Ms. Nurgun asked if the Board could receive an update from City Staff regarding the effects of COVID-19 on energy usage, water usage, and Green House Gas statistics.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Tamburry and seconded by Mr. Bonavita-Goldman to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.