

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting
October 26, 2020 - 6:15 PM**

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

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Stephanie Wilk, Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison

Kimberly Pearson, Sustainability Coordinator

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability

Melissa Doyle, Program Manager - Solid Waste and Recycling

Guests Present

Catherine Uden

Kelly Charles

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 September 29, 2020 were introduced. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Tamburri and seconded by Mr. Meade. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Wilk reported that confirmation for room accommodations for the proposed December 21, 2020 SAB meeting is pending. The City's Clerk office advised to check back November 1st to see if Governor DeSantis will extend the executive order for remote public meetings.

Ms. Wilk shared that the City of Fort Lauderdale is working together with the Broward Water Partnership and hosting a free webinar for residents to showcase the Conservation Pays program. This webinar is an opportunity for residents to learn ways to save water and save money while protecting the environment.

Ms. Doyle presented the *Take 5* recycling contamination campaign led by the Sustainability Division's Solid Waste and Recycling team. She explained that this campaign is to promote recycling only the five items that the City's recycling program accepts and to reduce contamination in the recycling stream. The accepted items are paper, glass containers, plastic containers (#1-7), metal cans, and cardboard. Ms. Doyle shared that contamination cost the City of Fort Lauderdale more than \$239,000 in fiscal year 2020 and the purpose of this campaign is to reduce the amount of contamination produced by the City of Fort Lauderdale. She explained that the City is hoping to reach neighbors through a series of different outreach materials. Ultimately, the message is, if an item doesn't fit in one of the five categories then it should be placed in the trash bin. Each neighbor will receive a reference postcard that introduces them to the *Take 5* program. Ms. Doyle explained that volunteers and staff will conduct audits of recycling carts and identify any contaminants. The audit will begin in the Coral Ridge Country Club Estate neighborhood. Staff and volunteers will check bins and leave a tag on the bin notifying the owner whether or not the correct items are placed in the bin. In addition, staff and volunteers will be using a program called *Recyclist Program Tracker* to track results. The goals of this program are the following:

- Provide real-time curbside feedback;
- Improve the quality of recycling sent for processing;
- Reduce contamination;
- Improve cost to benefit ratio.;
- Identify common contaminants for future outreach;
- Develop targeted campaigns by neighborhood; and
- Bring awareness to recycling.

Presentations

Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Update

Ms. Pearson presented an update on the revisions to the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance. She shared that the team has received a lot

of feedback and they are currently working on processing them. Ms. Pearson listed updates that were made to following sections:

- Section 47-21.1 Intent and Purpose
- Section 47-21.2 Definitions
- Section 47-21.6 Landscape Plan Required
- Section 47-21.11 Maintenance
- Section 47-21.12 Landscape Requirements for a Vehicular Use Area
- Section 47-21.13 Landscape Requirements for Zoning Districts
- Section 47-21.14 Landscape for Special District
- Section 47-21.15 Tree Preservation

Ms. Pearson shared that the timeline has changed due to the large amount of feedback received. As of this time, the team has tentatively planned that the ordinance revisions are to reach the City Commission for first and second reading in January and February of 2021.

A question and answer segment ensued.

The full presentation is attached.

New Business

SAB Planning for 2021

Mr. Liechty asked City staff if there were plans in the pipeline that the Board could consider. Mr. Hadwen said that there a couple things staff can share. He reminded the Board that in the past they did different exercises to decide on priorities including dot voting on different topics. In addition, Mr. Hadwen shared that the Sustainability Division is working on a five-year plan. He suggested that the Board set aside some time at the next meeting and staff can bring forward different topics for the Board to consider for 2021.

Ms. Wilk reminded the Board that in February, the Board created a list of topics to pursue for 2020 but some had been placed on the wayside due to the pandemic. She said she will resend those minutes to the Board as a reminder and to spark some ideas.

Mr. Liechty suggested that the Board use the November meeting for planning and encouraged Board members to bring forth topics they would like to consider.

Old Business

Sustainability Issues Regarding Yacht Docking Waivers Behind NE 20th Ave

Mr. Liechty confirmed that there are no updates on this topic according to the Marine Advisory Board's September 3, 2020 meeting minutes.

Proposed Communications

Commission Exploration of Plastic and Styrofoam Ban on City Property

The Board drafted the following communication to the City Commission:

“At its July 7, 2020, meeting, the City Commission discussed the City’s ability to limit single-use plastics and expanded polystyrene (commonly known by one company’s trademarked name for the material, Styrofoam). The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) researched this question and recommends that the City of Fort Lauderdale prohibit the purchase and use of these items on City-owned properties/facilities, at City events, and by City vendors in an effort to protect City waterways, beaches, rights-of-way, and other public property from litter and pollution. At a minimum, we request that the City prohibit its own purchase and use of such materials.*

This policy would set the City as a leader on environmental policy and inspire wider change in the community. While the City’s ability to prohibit these materials in a more global fashion has been preempted, it is still within the City’s power to restrict or limit the materials it chooses to purchase for use or allow on City property.

Single-use plastics and Styrofoam are both petroleum-based materials, which are difficult to recycle, do not biodegrade, contribute to climate change, harm human health, and are so lightweight that both materials are easily dispersed by wind and rain, clogging up our storm drains and waterways. In addition, single-use plastics and Styrofoam can be ingested by marine life, birds, and other animals - harming or killing them. Limits on single-use plastic and Styrofoam would reduce all of the harmful impacts to our community listed above.

The following are examples of similar prohibitions that have been enacted:

- *In October 2020 the City of Hollywood, Florida prohibited the use of Styrofoam and single use plastics by City vendors as well as their use on City property including City parks, City facilities, and beaches.*
- *Various other jurisdictions in Florida that have adopted similar ordinances prohibiting the use and purchase of single-use plastics and/or Styrofoam include Hallandale Beach, Dania Beach, Miami Beach, Deerfield Beach, Coral Gables, Bal Harbour, North Bay Village, Surfside, Orlando, and Orange County.*
- *The Miami-Dade Aviation Department has implemented policies prohibiting concessionaries, certain business partners, and management agreement operators from providing containers or utensils, cups, straws, or plates made from Styrofoam or petroleum-based plastic.*

It is recognized that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of single-use plastics (such as cutlery and cups) has increased out of necessity due to public health concerns. However, there are many alternatives made

from more sustainable materials that can be purchased and/or utilized by the City in place of plastic or Styrofoam (such as bamboo or other biodegradable, plant-based products).

Based on the foregoing, the SAB strongly recommends that the City Commission prohibit purchase and use of single-use plastics and Styrofoam by the City and its vendors on City property and at City events.

**For purposes of this communication, single-use plastics refer to petroleum-based plastic food service-related products that are designed to be used only once in the same form and then disposed of or destroyed.”*

A motion to advance the above Communication to Commission made by Ms. Mazza, seconded by Ms. Tamburly. Motion passed unanimously.

Support for the Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Revisions

The Board drafted the following communication to the City Commission:

“The SAB received presentations on June 22 and October 26, 2020, from Kimberly Pearson, Sustainability Coordinator in the Public Works Department, on the proposed modifications to the Unified Land Development Regulation (ULDR) Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance.

The SAB recognizes that trees:

- *are vital parts of the City of Fort Lauderdale’s environment and infrastructure;*
- *provide numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits through the provision of natural processes for managing water; and*
- *create healthier urban environments that support habitat, provide flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water.*

The ULDR Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance language strengthens tree protection, supporting the Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2024 initiatives:

- *Infrastructure Focus Area: Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community*
 - *Objective: Grow and enhance the urban forest*
- *Public Places Focus Area: Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaged community*
 - *Objective: Improve water quality and our natural environment*

The SAB believes these proposed changes to the code will promote tree planting and strengthen existing tree protection, with the overall sustainability goals of reducing energy use, removing pollution, and providing valuable green infrastructure to manage stormwater. We strongly support them and urge the City Commission to adopt the proposed modifications to the ULDR Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance.”

A motion was made by Ms. Adler and seconded by Ms. Wood to advance the above Communication the City Commission with the condition that staff submit the Communication for the same date that the ordinance revisions reach the Commission for the first reading. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments

Ms. Wilk shared that the City of Fort Lauderdale is hosting a Document Shredding event November 14 at Snyder Park.

Mr. Liechty share that Palm Beach County, Miami Dade County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the business community had donated funds to the Urban Land Institute to conduct a business case for resilience study. He shared that the report is now posted on the ULI webpage and the South Florida Climate Compact website. He added that it is a great document that contributes to the regional discussion about South Florida's resilience issues and encouraged the Board to check it out. Report available at <https://seflorida.uli.org/business-case-for-resilience-southeast-florida/>

Items for Next Meeting

New Business:

- SAB Planning For 2021

Old Business:

- Sustainability Issues Regarding Yacht Docking Waivers Behind NE 20th Ave

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Tamburri and seconded by Ms. Adler to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.