

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting
April 26, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2021 through 4/2021					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Elizabeth Adler, Chair	M	P	4	0
2	Muge Nurgun, Vice Chair	II	P	2	2
3	John Bonavita-Goldman	II	A	2	2
4	Kelly Charles	IV	P	4	0
5	Patxi Pastor	I	P	2	0
6	Owen Cylke	C	P	3	1
7	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	4	0
8	Carolann Mazza	III	P	4	0
9	Douglas Meade	I	P	4	0
10	Carol Tamburry	III	P	4	0
11	Vacant Position	M			

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Stephanie Wilk, Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Melissa Doyle, Program Manager - Solid Waste and Recycling

Guests Present

None.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wilk at 6:02 p.m. An announcement was made to explain the videoconferencing process. The roll was called, and a quorum was present. Ms. Adler and Ms. Nurgun arrived at 6:01 p.m. Mr. Dutton arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for March 22, 2021 were introduced. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Mazza and seconded by Ms. Tamburri. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Wilk shared that the Sustainability Division is doing various things in celebration of Earth Month.

- Weekly email blasts in April
 - Week 1: Water Conservation
 - Week 2: Recycling
 - Week 3: *More Flavor Less Plastic*
 - Week 4: Arbor Day
- *2021 More Flavor Less Plastic Poster Contest* for 4th and 5th grade students living and/or attending school in Fort Lauderdale.
- Ms. Wilk will be a panelist for the *Debris Free Cities* webinar hosted by Debris Free Oceans on April 29th at 12:00PM via Zoom.
- Mayor Trantalis has pledged to participate in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for water conservation. We encourage all residents to pledge as well.
- City Staff Photo Contest where staff must take a photo of themselves using reusable containers for lunch. The first 50 submissions win a reusable clamshell container that is microwavable and dishwasher safe.

Ms. Wilk shared that Governor DeSantis may not extend the emergency order for COVID-19. As a result, it is possible that when the emergency order expires, Boards may resume in-person meetings. Staff will keep the Board updated.

Presentations

Resiliency City Commission Top Priorities 2021 {Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager}

Mr. Hadwen shared that resiliency is one of the City Commissions Top Priorities for the second year in a row. Fort Lauderdale experiences a lot of tidal flooding. In 2018, there were 46 high tides, 2019 had 170 high tides, and 2020 had 138 high tides. He explained that if you look at sea level rise projections, tidal flooding is one of the City's biggest challenges into the future. Mr. Hadwen showed projections of coastal flooding over the next 20 years and explained that the numbers will continue to increase unless we do something.

Mr. Hadwen explained that in the fall King Tides, the highest high tides, are more prevalent. It is predicted that flooding events will occur in October, November, and December. For each of its annual Commission Top Priorities, the City gathers a team of City staff to draft a project charter. The purpose of the project charter is to integrate resilience into current and future city planning and operations.

Mr. Hadwen expanded on the following 2020 major accomplishments:

- Completed seawall elevation in the Isle of Palms and Cordova Road,
- Created an asset management system,
- Conducted a Repetitive Loss Area Flooding Analysis,

- Purchased 18 high clearance vehicles for public safety use,
- Performed hurricane mitigation during housing rehabilitation program; and
- Adopted the “Unified Regional Sea Level Rise Project – 2019 Update” of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.

Additionally, Mr. Hadwen discussed the focus areas for 2021 and those include:

- Asset management
- Beach resiliency
- Sea level rise
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Flooding

A question and answer segment ensued.

The full presentation is attached.

Waterway Advocates:

The Waterway Advocates representatives did not attend. The Board decided that if the Waterway Advocates reach out again, the Board can revisit their invitation to present.

New Business

Mr. Pastor explained that Florida Atlantic University (FAU) had conducted a sea level rise study and created a model for sea level rise projections. He suggested that the Board invite scientists from FAU to present to the Board to discuss sea level rise projections.

Next, Mr. Pastor talked about education in Fort Lauderdale schools. He would like to see Fort Lauderdale set the example for resiliency. Mr. Pastor shared that he is the President for the Guy Harvey Association. They have modules and lesson plans for teachers. Mr. Pastor added that he believes it would be beneficial for Zoie Saunders, the Chief Educational Officer for the City of Fort Lauderdale, to present the City’s strategy for education to the SAB relating to sustainability and resiliency. He emphasized that it is important to introduce students to the careers we have in Fort Lauderdale like architecture, engineering, urban planning, and more.

Mr. Hadwen shared that his team had recently worked with Zoie with the *2021 More Flavor Less Plastic Poster Contest*, but the Sustainability and Climate Resiliency team had not had that conversation regarding education and these topics. Mr. Hadwen added that it is up to the SAB if they want to pursue this topic and to see if it falls in line with the SAB’s purpose.

The Board agreed to invite Zoie Saunders, Chief Educational Officer to present at a future SAB meeting.

Mr. Pastor added that the Florida Compact will be hosted in Fort Lauderdale in two years. He suggested that it would be a great opportunity for the SAB to join the conversation now. Additionally, Mr. Pastor

suggested that the SAB invite Dr. Gassman and Dr. Jurado from Broward County to present on the topic. Mr. Hadwen encouraged everyone to participate and suggested that the Board encourage elected officials to attend when it comes to Fort Lauderdale.

Old Business

Insurance Rate and Climate Change Speaker

Mr. Cylke summarized the purpose of the Board looking into the issue of Insurance Rates and Climate change for the new members. He proposed that the Board host a discussion led by the CEO of Jupiter Investigations and invite participation from the County Commission, City Commission, relevant staff, the banking community, and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cylke added that this would be an informational type of discussion to gain a better understanding of the climate crisis and its effect on insurance rates now and into the future.

Ms. Wilk added that the planning and organization of this event will involve extra effort outside of the usual liaison duties. She advised that the SAB draft a Communication to the City Commission to request additional assistance from staff with the organization and planning of this event. Mr. Hadwen added that the event should have a distinct agenda and that be well organized. Ms. Wilk asked the Board if this is something they want to do during their monthly meeting or as an extra event. Mr. Cylke said he would like a separate event and the Board agreed. He added that he will draft the Communication to the Commission requesting additional staff support and the agenda for the event.

Bahia Mar

Mr. Hadwen shared that staff had some concerns about the logistics of the meeting and the uncertainty of the status of the Bahia Mar proposal with the City. He shared that he and Ms. Wilk spoke with Ms. Nurgun and Ms. Adler to defer the discussion to the April meeting. He recommended that the Board spend time to organize this meeting. He added that this is a popular topic, and it may attract a lot of guest speakers. He spoke with Luisa Agathon, Senior Assistant to the City Manager, about the status of Bahia Mar. Ms. Agathon said that the developer had asked to extend the lease and the Commission was not willing to do that at the March 16, 2021 Commission meeting. Currently, there are active discussions between the City's elected officials and the developer about bringing a new proposal for the property forward. She shared that if there is something they believe they can move forward, they will go through a public process. Mr. Hadwen asked the Board how they would like to proceed knowing that there is nothing on the table for the City to decide on at this time.

Ms. Nurgun said that she would like to wait for any Board conversation until a plan or proposal is publicly available. Alternatively, she suggested that the Board consider the past Communication to the Commission that the SAB sent in 2016, and they can draft another generic Communication about the potential impact of any development in that area.

Mr. Hadwen said that this topic was something that the Board decided to discuss. He added that as staff try to guide the SAB in a way that is productive and consistent on what is going on in the City. One concern Mr. Hadwen had was that there was not a clear question on the table. Mr. Meade proposed that the Board

recommend to the Commission that the entire project should be designated for public use. He added that it should not be a hotel, or anything privatized. He said it should be the star of the City. Ms. Mazza agreed.

Mr. Pastor added that there is a seven billion dollar need for infrastructure repair. He said that it is going to require either raising taxes or increasing public and private partnerships. Mr. Pastor urged that if a compromise is not made, developers may choose to build elsewhere. He encouraged that the Board gives the developers an opportunity to present their plan before the SAB makes any decisions.

Ms. Mazza said that this particular piece of property is iconic, and it is public land. She added that people come to Fort Lauderdale for things like the beach and the boat show. They do not come to the City to see Condominiums. She would like the Board to invite a representative from the developer and Lauderdale tomorrow. Ms. Mazza believes that the Board has an opportunity to have a say on what happens with this property.

Ms. Nurgun asked if the SAB can draft a Communication that includes economics, tourism, and not only environmental concerns. Mr. Hadwen advised that the Board review the SAB's purpose in the Charter. He added that there is no rule, but if something is sent to Commission outside of the Board's scope that he is not sure how they will receive it. Mr. Hadwen asked the Board if they want to draft a Communication at the present time or wait until there is something on the table.

Ms. Adler added that there is nothing in progress at this time and that the lease is not expiring for decades. Ms. Adler clarified that the developer is not looking to renew the lease, rather, they are requesting additional time on their current lease. Ms. Mazza shared that additionally the developers intend to build condominiums on that property.

The Board reviewed the Communication sent from the SAB to the City Commission in 2016 on this topic. Mr. Pastor said that the concerns in the document were valid, however, it is one sided. He added that the Communication does not include an upside to the community and that every point is negative.

Ms. Nurgun asked the Board if they wanted to wait until there is another proposal or if they want to pursue this topic now. Mr. Pastor suggested that the Board invite all parties to have a discussion about how they can best utilize that land and it be beneficial for the community. Mr. Meade said that if the Board is going to invite speakers, then it should be next month or the following month. Mr. Hadwen suggested that they keep the discussion to a manageable number and that there is structure. He added that there needs to be some framing questions. Ms. Wilk agreed and added that there should be a maximum of three speakers. One representative from the community, developer, and one of the stakeholders. Mr. Meade believed that the Board only needs to hear from the community and developer and that presentations should be limited to ten to fifteen minutes. Mr. Pastor thought it was important to invite a stakeholder, a representative from the developer, and a representative from the community.

Mr. Pastor contributed two questions for the presenters:

1. How can you make this particular proposition of developing this property to be a significant win for the community?
2. What is your perspective of Bahia Mar and do you see a likely way to see a compromise?

Ms. Mazza contributed the following question for the presenters:

1. How is what you envision what this property is going to be used for benefiting the community?

Mr. Hadwen suggested that the Board return the questions back to Sustainability. He suggested asking “What are the sustainability benefits, issues, or challenges of this project?”. He added that it will be helpful to try and maintain that sustainability framework, otherwise the Board will get off purpose and may not be heard as well by the Commission.

Mr. Pastor made a motion to invite the developer, a representative from Lauderdale Tomorrow, and a representative from the boat show for next month. If next month is not possible, then in June. Mr. Meade Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joint Meeting with Other Cities Planning

Ms. Wilk informed the Board that Ms. Adler drafted an agenda for the joint meeting with other cities. Ms. Wilk asked the Board if they wanted to table this event until further notice. The Board agreed.

Proposed Communications

City Contracts to Include Green Language

Ms. Adler drafted a communication. Mr. Hadwen added that he received feedback from the Chief Procurement Officer. Ms. Nurgun suggested the Board keep it on the agenda for review at the May meeting.

Bahia Mar

The Board has decided to invite one representative from the community, the developer, and the boat show to present on this topic.

Staff Support Request for Joint Meeting with Other Cities

The Board has tabled this item until further notice.

Comments

Mr. Hadwen shared that he is presenting at the evening City Commission meeting on May 4th on the proposed carbon footprint policies that he had presented to the board in January and February. Ms. Wilk will send out a link in the weekly Information Exchange email.

Items for Next Meeting

Presentation:

- Bahia Mar

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

- Insurance Rates and Climate Change Speaker

Proposed Communications:

- City Contracts Including Green Language

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Mazza and seconded by Mr. Meade to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.