

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting
May 24, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2021 through 5/2021					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Elizabeth Adler, Chair	M	A	4	1
2	Muge Nurgun, Vice Chair	II	P	3	2
3	John Bonavita-Goldman	II	P	3	2
4	Kelly Charles	IV	P	5	0
5	Patxi Pastor	I	A	2	1
6	Owen Cylke	C	P	4	1
7	Whitney Dutton	IV	A	4	1
8	Carolann Mazza	III	P	5	0
9	Douglas Meade	I	P	5	0
10	Carol Tamburry	III	P	5	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 6:07 p.m. An announcement was made to explain the videoconferencing process. The roll was called, and a quorum was present. Ms. Nurgun arrived 6:09 p.m. Mr. Bonavita-Goldman arrive at 6:20 p.m.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for April 24, 2021, were introduced. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Cylke and seconded by Ms. Mazza. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Wilk shared that at the June 1, 2021, City Commission meeting, the City Commission will recognize participants of the *More Flavor Less Plastic Poster Contest*. She invited the Board members to attend and to check out the art display on the first floor of City Hall.

Mr. Hadwen reminded the Board that in the April SAB meeting, he presented on potential policies to reduce the City's Carbon Footprint. On May 4th, 2021, Mr. Hadwen presented the potential policies to the City Commission. The Commission directed staff to develop an implementation plan and submit it in a memo to the Commission. He stated that when the memo is complete that he will share it with the Board.

Mr. Hadwen shared that he is scheduled to give a presentation to the City Commission on advanced metering infrastructure. He added that a smart meter system for the City's water meters have several benefits for residents. Benefits include improved accuracy, leak detection, and an accessible dashboard for homeowners to track their water usage pattern. A pilot study will begin early next year that involves different types of meters, different net communication networks, and different software. The presentation is scheduled for the June 1st, 2021 City Commission Conference Meeting.

Presentations

None.

New Business

Ms. Charles inquired if the City could install subterranean termite bait stations in parks. She added that this issue is a huge liability with trees that could rot because of termites. Mr. Hadwen suggested the Board begin by asking the City's Urban Forester to speak with the Board and explain what the City is doing to control termites in parks.

Old Business

Insurance Rate and Climate Change Speaker

Mr. Cylke shared that he circulated a note in the last SAB information exchange asking the Commission to direct City staff to work on preparing for Sustainability Advisory Boards Insurance Rate and Climate Change Webinar. Mr. Cylke suggested that staff edit the Communication he drafted and submit it to the City Commission. The Board approved. Additionally, Mr. Cylke distributed a proposal on how the webinar should be structured. He shared that he spoke with Rich Sorkin, CEO of Jupiter intelligence, Inc., who is willing to participate as a speaker in the webinar. Mr. Cylke would like Mr. Sorkin to discuss what the City has in terms of resiliency, what are the imminent threats to real estate, and how the City could react. He would like another speaker to present on details about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Mr. Cylke suggested a third speaker to discuss what the current plans are in Fort Lauderdale, specifically the non-physical challenges of climate change analyzing the effects on mortgage and insurance rates. He

proposed that Dr. Jurado from Broward County or Dr. Gassman from the City of Fort Lauderdale act as a moderator for this webinar. Lastly, Mr. Cylke recommended that the Board invite other organizations within the City to co-sponsor the webinar.

Mr. Hadwen informed the Board that with the Governor ending the executive order for emergencies, all Board meetings will be in person starting June 1st, 2021. Mr. Cylke asked if it could be a separate event and be a virtual webinar.

The Board reviewed Mr. Cylke's draft of the communications. Mr. Hadwen said that this includes background of why this is important, but the commission just needs to know what the SAB is asking. Mr. Cylke motioned to approve Mr. Hadwen and his team to edit the Communication requesting additional staff support for the Insurance Rate webinar. Mr. Meade seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bahia Mar

Mr. Hadwen reminded the SAB that in the April 2021 meeting the Board decided to invite the developer, a representative from Lauderdale Tomorrow, and a representative from the Boat Show to present at the May 2021 SAB meeting. Mr. Hadwen extended an invitation to the developer, Jimmy Tate, who declined the invitation. Mr. Tate said that he felt he did not have a new concrete proposal to bring forward but would be interested in speaking to the public when he reaches that point. Currently, he is negotiating with the City on what the next proposal will look like.

Mr. Meade suggested that the Board send a Communication to the Commission that the City does not extend the lease and do not allow for private development. Ms. Mazza explained that she is disappointed that there have not been many opportunities for the public to voice their opinions on the matter. She added that people argue that the lease is not up for another 49 years, but that time goes fast, and so the SAB needs to recommend that the City Commission decline the extension of the current lease. She recognized that it does not protect the property for the present, but at least the land can be preserved for the future.

Mr. Meade amended his motion that the Board send a Communication to the Commission in support of bringing the Bahia Mar property into the public realm and not extending the lease for privatization for the future. Mr. Cylke disagreed with the specificity of declining development. He added that development is something that must happen given the cost of the property to keep the boat show there. Mr. Meade said that he believes that land has to have some development and parking, but it should be a place where it could be the gemstone of the City.

Mr. Hadwen shared that the City Commission discussed this topic at their last meeting on April 20th, 2021. The Commission discussed that there would be more public space and they identified that the development will not be traditional condominium, but perhaps be more of a hotel or timeshare type of condominium. Mr. Cylke suggested adding in the importance of public discussion and stated that he is undecided about not extending the lease. Mr. Bonavita-Goldman stated that the Commission is not going

to accept all of the Board's requests in the Communication, so they might as well add it all and see what they can get. Mr. Cylke accepted that idea.

Mr. Cylke motioned to amend the motion to send a Communication to the City Commission in support of bringing the Bahia Mar property into the public realm, to not extend the lease, and to involve public discussion throughout the decision-making process. Mr. Bonavita-Goldman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of 2021 SAB Topics

Ms. Wilk shared the tentative schedule that the Board voted on in December. She mentioned that the Board had not set a date for the Insurance Rates and Climate Change Webinar. Mr. Meade said he thought that was going to count as a normal SAB meeting. Ms. Wilk reminded the Board that they agreed to hold it as a separate event in their last meeting. Mr. Hadwen reminded them that if it is a meeting, then it would have to be in person. Mr. Meade asked if they could have their meeting in the Chambers and then broadcast the presentations. Mr. Hadwen said that they could, but they would still need to send a Communication to the City Commission asking for extra staff support.

Mr. Cylke asked if the City could host it and therefore it could be a webinar. This way the event will get more participation. Mr. Hadwen added that if the Board chose to pursue this webinar, then they would have to find another partner to host and sponsor the event. Mr. Hadwen stated that all Board members are welcome to attend but could not discuss the topic. He also mentioned that the Board could request that the City to take on the responsibility, organize and host the webinar. The Board agreed for the SAB Staff liaison to draft the Communication requesting that the City host this educational event.

Mr. Meade stated that he would like to discuss the light pollution issue in the City. Mr. Hadwen shared that the City has hired a consultant for a street light study and that staff can ask them to present to the Board. Mr. Meade asked if there was a non-profit that could speak to the Board. Mr. Hadwen mentioned that he is not aware of many groups, only the *Dark Skies Initiative*. Mr. Meade would like to hear from a non-profit that worked on light pollution and the consultant.

Proposed Communications

City Contracts to Include Green Language

This Communication was deferred to the June 2021 meeting.

Staff Support Request for Insurance Rates and Climate Change Event

The Board has voted to allow City staff to draft this Communication and submit to the City Commission on the SAB's behalf. They would like to request that the City host a webinar on the topic of insurance rates and climate change.

Bahia Mar

The Board drafted the following Communication to the City Commission:

"In light of the recent request by the leasee of the Bahia Mar property to extend the current lease, the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) urges the City Commission to reevaluate the importance of this property to the citizens of the City of Fort Lauderdale and look at this property with the view of bringing it to the public realm and not extend the current lease.

The SAB understands that some development may be required to maintain a world class marina and event space, but in no event should the property be privatized to individual owners. This iconic property has the potential to be the gemstone in the crown of the Venice of America and be an attraction to both visitors and residents alike. This location should be able to support the annual Boat Show and other special events.

The residents of Fort Lauderdale recently voted on a Park Bond to create more public space and this property fits in with that strong public directive. It is the intention of the SAB that this property is preserved as public space for future generations to come."

A motion was made by Mr. Meade and seconded by Ms. Mazza to advance the above Communication to the City Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Presentation:

- Light Pollution

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

None

Proposed Communications:

- City Contracts Including Green Language

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Meade and seconded by Ms. Mazza to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.