

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
100 N ANDREWS AVE, 1ST FLOOR COMMISSION CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
July 26, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

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

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Stephanie Wilk, Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Compliance Manager

Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability (Virtual Participation)

Guests Present

Robert Larsen, Flagler Village Civic Association

Leanne Barber, Flagler Village Civic Association

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Adler at 6:06 p.m. The roll was called, and a quorum was not present. Ms. Adler participated virtually due to an extenuating circumstance. Ms. Mazza arrived at 6:08 p.m. Mr. Dutton arrived at 6:25 p.m. With Mr. Dutton's arrival, the Board achieved a quorum of participants. Ms. Tamburly motioned that Ms. Adler's virtual vote count, Mr. Meade seconded. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Mr. Meade motioned to approve the May 24, 2021 minutes; Ms. Tamburri seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Tamburri motioned to approve the June 28, 2021 meeting minutes; Ms. Mazza seconded. Mr. Meade and Ms. Mazza abstained due to their absences at the June meeting; in a voice vote the motion passed.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Wilk announced that Paxti Pastor, Muge Nurgun, and John Bonavita-Goldman have resigned from the Sustainability Advisory Board. Mr. Pastor and Ms. Nurgun have expressed that they are unable to participate in person as they're work schedules require extensive traveling and it is difficult to attend in-person meetings. Mr. Bonavita-Goldman has moved to New York for personal reasons.

Bahia Mar Communication

Ms. Wilk shared a video clip from the City Commission meeting on July 6, 2021 of the Commission receiving the SAB's Communication on Bahia Mar. Ms. Mazza stated that the thoughts from the Commission were warranted and that the SAB could possibly consider amending the Communication to talk about sea level rise and climate change.

Update on Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance Revision

Mr. Hadwen shared that the revisions are currently going through internal review. Staff had planned to bring it to the Planning and Zoning Board by July, but they think it may be delayed until the August meeting. Mr. Hadwen thanked the Board for their support.

Presentations

Water Quality Testing Update {Todd Hiteshew – Environmental Compliance Manager}

Mr. Hiteshew shared that the City has ten water quality testing sites. Tests are conducted by the Miami Waterkeeper. Most testing sites are areas where people may frequent the waterways. Mr. Hiteshew added that the Miami Waterkeeper posts results on the *Swim Guide* app and website, www.SwimGuide.org. Mr. Hiteshew added that water quality in the City of Fort Lauderdale is impacted by non-point sources and urban runoff. Miami Waterkeeper conducts sampling at ten sites on Tuesdays and posts the results on Wednesdays. If a site doesn't meet the standards, it is tested again on Thursdays and the results are posted on Fridays. Mr. Hiteshew explained how the results are compared to a measuring matrix and the EPA standards for bacteria at swimming beaches.

Mr. Hiteshew discussed the planned water quality improvements in the Himmarshee Canal including sediment dredging and the protein skimming pilot program. The protein skimming pilot was initiated in June, and the City is awaiting results. He added that the City will be dredging a portion of the Tarpon River and conducting smoke testing at a couple of sites. Smoke testing will help determine whether there is an illicit connection between the sanitary system and the stormwater system. Additionally, there are natural

sources of bacteria, such as wildlife fecal discharge, that could contribute to bacterial impairment in the waterways.

The presentation is attached.

Ms. Adler and Ms. Mazza suggested that the City post signage to notify people about the *SwimGuide* application so residents and tourists are aware of the current water quality status. Mr. Hiteshew shared that the City has included the information about the *SwimGuide* application and website in previous *LauderTrac* publications and posts on *Next Door*.

Ms. Tamburri asked if the City is seeing an improvement in water quality after the recent fertilizer ordinance was passed. Mr. Hiteshew said that they are not seeing algal blooms yet, so he believes it is making a difference.

Dr. Gassman noted, that when the City chose these specific sites for water quality testing, City staff actively engaged high user recreation groups about the testing activity and the availability of the data on *Swim Guide*.

Carbon Footprint Phase I Recommendations {Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager}

As a follow-up to previous discussions with the SAB on carbon footprint, Mr. Hadwen presented recommendations for a simplified carbon footprint policy and several low cost and no cost implementation strategies. He summarized the unusual and increased weather events that have been reported in the news which have been associated with increasing climate change impacts. Mr. Hadwen shared that many cities across the United States are committing to a goal of net zero by 2050 or sooner. The Florida Race to Zero was inaugurated this year and to date 12 cities have signed on. Mr. Hadwen outlined staff implementation recommendations the City can follow to reach this goal such as the following:

- Ordinance revisions for new construction to require cool roofs, solar readiness, and electric vehicle charging readiness;
- Increase electric vehicles in the City fleet and availability of EV charging infrastructure;
- Make solar a priority of the City and showcase different pilot solar installations; and
- Expand outreach to the community to create impactful change citywide as City operations only represents 10% of total community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

In the end, Mr. Hadwen asked the Board if they would like to submit a Communication to the City Commission in support of these initiatives.

The presentation is attached.

Mr. Meade commented that he would like to see an emphasis on energy conservation. He added that it is important to change human behavior. For example, be more conscientious of thermostat settings, turning off lights, and taking the stairs instead of the elevator, etc. Mr. Hadwen agreed with Mr. Meade and said those are things that the City can take into consideration along with the changes mentioned.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Proposed Communications

Ms. Tamburly motioned to prepare a Communication below in favor of Mr. Hadwen's carbon footprint recommendations. Ms. Mazza seconded and in a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Carbon Footprint Phase I Recommendations

The Board drafted the following Communication to the City Commission:

"With recent climate related disasters including unprecedented heatwaves, drought, flooding, and wildfires making headlines, it is imperative that we all take significant steps to reduce climate impacts. As one of the most vulnerable cities to sea level rise, the SAB believes that the City of Fort Lauderdale should take a leading role in this effort to reduce its carbon footprint and ultimately its climate change impacts. Therefore, as was previously communicated, the Sustainability Advisory Board strongly recommends that the City adopt policies and set long-term goals for reducing the City's carbon footprint consistent with achieving the goals and objectives of the Advance Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan.

In response to the previous SAB communication on this topic, City Commission has requested a phased approach to carbon footprint reduction. At the July 26, 2021, SAB meeting, Sustainability Division staff presented recommended policy and implementation strategies for the next phase of the City's carbon footprint reduction efforts. Based on that presentation, the SAB recommends that the Commission adopt the single policy below by resolution to establish an overarching direction for future action.

- *The City of Fort Lauderdale will commit to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in its operations by the year 2040 and citywide by the year 2050.*

This policy would be consistent with the recently launched Florida Race to Zero Campaign which already includes pledges from Orlando, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Boynton Beach, Hallandale Beach, and an additional seven other Florida cities. The SAB recommends that Fort Lauderdale take the first step and pledge to participate in this Campaign.

The SAB also recommends that the City implement no cost and low-cost initiatives to reduce carbon footprint in its operations and community wide. Recommended initiatives include but are not limited to adopting green ordinances, continuing to increase EV and hybrid usage in the city fleet and installation of EV charging infrastructure, renewable energy demonstration projects, and community outreach programs to reduce carbon footprint among businesses and residences, implementing energy efficiency and conservation initiatives, among others."

A motion was made by Mr. Dutton and seconded by Ms. Tamburly to advance the Communication on the premise that staff submit it simultaneously with the Carbon Footprint Memo. Motion passed unanimously.

Climate Change and Insurance Rates Webinar

There are two possible Communications that City staff drafted on this topic at the direction of SAB. The first Communication focused on presenting this topic at a future Commission meeting. The second Communication recommended conducting outreach to stakeholder groups, assessing interest on this topic, and, potentially, creating a webinar for a larger audience. Ms. Adler recalled that the Board was interested in doing both but wanted to begin with the Commission workshop presentation. Mr. Meade added that he would like to be educated and have a presentation to the SAB first. Dr. Gassman added that staff have done some outreach to find a speaker, but it will be challenging to find one individual who can present on this broad topic. Mr. Hadwen added that staff can work with Mr. Cylke to find people to present to the Board and they can use that information to make a recommendation for next steps. Ms. Adler asked if they would like to put this presentation on the next agenda. The Board agreed. Mr. Meade asked if this is what the Board wants to make a priority. Mr. Hadwen shared that they could alternatively consider a presentation from the Department of Sustainable Development on the mixed-use ordinance. However, they will not be ready until September. He added that although Ms. Nurgun has resigned from the SAB, she offered to present on circular economy.

Public Comments

Leanne Barber from the Flagler Village Civic Association commented on the One Stop Shop plans. Ms. Barber informed the SAB that in 2015, the SAB submitted a Communication to the City Commission in support the idea of making the One Stop Shop land into a public park. She added that there were plans to make that land into a public park but recently the City received an unsolicited proposal to develop on that piece of land as a commercial and entertainment venue. In terms of sustainability, Flagler Village is almost completely developed. Ms. Barber is asking that the City keep that three acres a green space. She added that there are concerns about heat island effects and flooding. Ms. Barber added that the City entered into an agreement with the developer in October of last year. They promised the neighbors that they would be involved in the design of this land. In order to develop this land, the City had to use a public and private partnership (P3). Ms. Barber shared the plans with the Board. She added that the creating a park at that location has been on the Parks Master Plan since 2003. Ms. Barber asked the Board for their support and to submit a Communication in support of making the One Stop Shop a public park. Ms. Adler

thanked Ms. Barber for her presentation and informed her that the Board will consider drafting a Communication to the City Commission at their August meeting.

Items for Next Meeting

Presentation:

- Climate Change and Insurance Rates

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

- Climate Change and Insurance Rates Webinar

Proposed Communications:

- Climate Change and Insurance Rates Webinar
- Park at One Stop Shop Location

Ms. Adler suggested having a backup presentation prepared if staff are unable to find a presenter on Climate Change and Insurance Rates. Mr. Hadwen informed the Board that Miami-Dade County has designated the first Heat Officer in the nation and staff could ask if they would like to present to the Board. The Board agreed that would be a great back-up plan.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Tamburri and seconded by Mr. Meade to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.