

DRAFT
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Regular Meeting
April 25, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2022 through 12/2022					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Vacant Position	M	-	-	-
2	Vacant Position	I	-	-	-
3	Vacant Position	II	-	-	-
4	Kelly Charles	IV	P	3	0
5	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	3	0
6	Vacant Position	-	-	-	-
7	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	2	1
8	Carolann Mazza	III	P	2	1
9	Vacant Position	II	-	-	-
10	Carol Tamburly, Vice Chair	III	P	3	0
11	Vacant Position	M	-	-	-

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Constance Lake, Development Services Department

Carla Blair, Prototype, Inc.

Guests Present

Hector Aleman

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Blattner at 6:00 p.m. The roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for March 28, 2022 were introduced. Chair Blattner noted an error in references to the Chair and Vice Chair in the minutes and a typographical error.

A **motion** to approve the minutes as amended was made by Vice Chair Tamburly and seconded by Ms. Charles. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Mr. Hadwen explained that Jason Bocchinfuso had resigned, and for the time being he would be filling role of liaison to the Board.

Landscape/Tree Ordinance

Mr. Hadwen stated the second meeting with the stakeholders' group had been held on April 21. He explained they had talked through and resolved the group's 10 priority issues, so would now be working with the consultant to revise the Ordinance language. He stated the next steps in the process would be review by the City Attorney and second reading before the Commission, tentatively scheduled for June 7.

Plantation Sustainability Board Meeting

Mr. Hadwen reported on the April 11 meeting of the Plantation Sustainability Living Advisory Board, which he had attended virtually along with Vice Chair Tamburri. He noted he had given a presentation on the SAB, which included a brief overview of the role of the Board and its history, as well as challenges in working with the City and City Commission. Vice Chair Tamburri added that they had touched on keeping communications brief and to the point and gave pointers.

Earth Month Activities

Mr. Hadwen shared a roundup of activities related to Earth Day and noted the Conservation Splash Game was wrapping up this month. He stated the communications team had sent out several Earth Day related messages throughout the month, including recycling, keeping waterways clean, and one from the Mayor on the City's Net Zero and LEED for Cities commitments. Mr. Hadwen noted Arbor Day is observed on April 29 and the City planted trees in Snyder Park in recognition and that a video would be released on the Commission protected trees on that day.

Mr. Hadwen mentioned staff had been working with the IT Department on updating the Sustainability Division website, including a simplification of the information on the SAB. He stated he would share that updated site in the next communication.

Vice Chair Tamburri asked for an update on the second reading of the lawn equipment Ordinance before the City Commission. Mr. Hadwen responded that he would follow up.

Presentations

Community Rating System

Mr. Hadwen explained that the presentation was a follow-up to the Joint Workshop with the City Commission to discuss impacts of climate change on insurance rates in the real estate market. He stated Constance Lake with the Development Services Department would be sharing regarding a City program to reduce rates for flood insurance.

Constance Lake, Development Services Department, shared a *PowerPoint* presentation regarding Fort Lauderdale's Community Rating System (CRS). She discussed her background as a development review specialist and FEMA contractor. She reviewed the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the goals of the FEMA CRS program and participation, explaining the program is voluntary but comes with mandatory requirements to include reporting and auditing. Continuing, Ms. Lake discussed the CRS program structure and changes made earlier this year, as well as activities before, during, and after flooding. She shared the report outlining Fort Lauderdale's credits received and discussed next steps.

A question-and-answer segment ensued.

Presentation is attached.

New Business

Golf Carts for Commuting Feasibility

Mr. Hadwen stated the Board had previously discussed a review of the feasibility of golf carts for commuting, and noted it was up to the Board whether this was a discussion they would like to pursue. He provided a brief review of the past discussion, explaining it had been brought up by previous Board member Douglas Meade as an opportunity to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation in the community. Discussion ensued, and it was determined the safety aspect was an issue and the Board would rather pursue discussion of the City's electric vehicle charging policy.

Broward County Single-Use Plastics Resolution

Mr. Hadwen explained Broward County was looking at restrictions on single-use plastics with a Resolution addressing its own properties. He noted the City has a prohibition on use of plastic straws, as well as the use of Styrofoam in some operations. He stated there are preemptions on the State level against further restrictions on items such as plastic bags. Discussion continued on actions taken in other cities, including bans and campaigns to encourage reduction of plastics, and Coral Gables' legal challenge of the State restrictions.

Ms. Mazza asked whether there were any Ordinances restricting balloons. Mr. Hadwen stated he would investigate the issue. The Board discussed the balloon business, education on the impact on marine animals, and potential restrictions on the County level. Mr. Hadwen stated he would put the item on a future agenda for discussion.

Old Business

March Advancing Electric Vehicles Presentation

Mr. Hadwen noted this issue had been discussed as part of the golf cart item under New Business and would be placed on a future agenda.

2022 SAB Topic Priorities

Mr. Hadwen reminded the Board he had suggested a speaker to talk about renewable energy and solar energy in Florida. He provided an update on securing a speaker and stated there may be a virtual presentation at the May meeting, along with a potential discussion on getting the Board involved on the City's LEED effort to increase sustainability in business practices. He noted he would invite a speaker from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Proposed Communication

Education Termite Impacts on Urban Forest

Chair Blattner explained he had worked on a Communication to the City Commission as a follow-up to the termite presentation, with feedback from Dr. Thomas Chouvinc and Mr. Hadwen. The Board discussed the specifics of the wording and drafted the following:

The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) recommends that the City Commission consider taking the below actions to mitigate the potential for tree damage and canopy loss from subterranean termites. As the SAB learned on February 28, 2022, from Dr. Thomas Chouvinc of the University of Florida regarding the increasing spread of the Formosan subterranean termite and the Asian subterranean termite in South Florida and Fort Lauderdale, these termites are particularly destructive to our trees and buildings.

1) *Raise awareness in local communities. Some neighborhoods are more at-risk than others. Use the following University of Florida termite distribution map link to help target the message for those areas, <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/termites-in-florida/termite-distribution/>.*

Owners and residents in these areas should be encouraged to conduct annual inspections of trees and structures for obvious signs of termite activity. Early detection is critical in catching early infestations and minimizing damage. Community awareness and understanding of the problem will reduce the potential damage to trees, structures, and properties. Investment in detection and mitigation of termite damage will reduce loss to tree canopy.

2) *Establishing a program for inspecting trees on City owned property. City owned properties and trees in parks and streets are also at risk and may increase liability to the City if not addressed. City staff should be trained to look for signs of termite activity. Once termites are detected and identified, treatment can be applied by City trained and licensed staff or third-party licensed pest control companies.*

The SAB urges the Commission to immediately take these actions pertaining to subterranean termites.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chair Tamburly and seconded by Ms. Mazza to advance the above Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Comments

Hector Aleman, Miami Lakes, stated the meeting had been very interesting and discussed his background with sustainability practices and programs.

Items for Next Meeting

Mr. Hadwen called for any additional comments on items for the next meeting, scheduled for May 23, 2022. He noted it would be a full agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.