

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
Virtual Meeting  
April 24, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>					
<b>1/2023 through 12/2023</b>					
	<b>Members</b>	<b>Appt by</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>1</b>	Sofia Thordin, Vice Chair	M	P	4	0
<b>2</b>	Vacant	I	-	-	-
<b>3</b>	Robert Daoust	II	P	4	0
<b>4</b>	Kelly Charles	IV	P	4	0
<b>5</b>	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	4	0
<b>6</b>	Suzee Bailey	C	P	1	0
<b>7</b>	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	3	1
<b>8</b>	Vacant	III	-	-	-
<b>9</b>	Jason Kirchhoff	II	P	4	0
<b>10</b>	Vacant	III	-	-	-
<b>11</b>	Jason Hignite	M	P	3	1

**Staff Present**

Public Works Department

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Analyst

Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director

Todd Hiteshow, Environmental Compliance Manager

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

Newly appointed Board member Suzee Bailey introduced herself. She stated she had long been an advocate for the City's waterways. Ms. Bailey was appointed as a Consensus member by Mayor Dean Trantalis.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Daoust noted a correction to his attendance at the March meeting.

A **motion** to approve the March 27, 2023, minutes as amended was made by Mr. Daoust and seconded by Ms. Thordin. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**Staff Liaison Report**

2023 Flash Flood Event

Mr. Hadwen shared regarding the impacts of the recent flash flood event, which resulted in more than 25 inches of rain in about 6 hours. He noted there were serious impacts in some of the neighborhoods and at City Hall. He stated the City Hall, which was built in the 1960s, took on serious damage in the below grade basement where its electrical and air conditioning equipment was located. He explained it

had been determined that the City should vacate City Hall, as it was not cost effective to continue operating in the building. Mr. Hadwen stated the location of future meetings was yet to be determined, and that staff would provide updates as they become available.

#### LEED for Cities Update

Mr. Hadwen stated staff had planned to hold a public event to announce the City's certification as LEED for Cities Gold, but, due to the flooding, the recognition event would be postponed to June.

#### Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance

Mr. Hadwen explained the landscape piece of the ordinance had been separated from the tree preservation piece, and meetings with stakeholders continue to be held. He stated a presentation to the Planning and Zoning Board was possible in May, but would more likely be held in June.

### **Presentations**

#### Waterway Quality Update

Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Compliance Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale, provided an update on waterway quality in the City. He discussed the physical, biological, and chemical aspects impacting waterway quality, and noted that the Commission had made the issue a priority for 2020, 2021, and 2022. He reviewed accomplishments during that time, including initiating recreational monitoring, pilot programs, and additional technology. He shared waterway signs which had been implemented as a result of an idea brought forward by the SAB, which include QR codes that provide links to information on the waterways. Continuing, Mr. Hiteshew discussed tracking of waterways being cleaned and frequency of compliance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) standards. He reviewed upcoming goals and initiatives, including an investment of \$200 million in new stormwater infrastructure and outreach programming.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Nancy Gassman, Ph.D., Assistant Public Works Director, Mr. Hiteshew, and Mr. Hadwen responded to questions in turn.

***Presentation is attached.***

#### **New Business**

None.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **Proposed Communication**

None.

#### **Comments**

Mr. Hadwen encouraged Board members to continue checking their emails for updates on the location of future meetings.

Chair Blattner proposed the Board take off the August meeting as its summer holiday. Mr. Hadwen outlined the City Commission's summer holiday briefly and discussion ensued. Consensus was to make the determination at the May meeting.

#### **Items for Next Meeting**

Mr. Hadwen stated a presentation regarding living seawalls was planned for the May meeting.

Ms. Charles pointed out the Board had previously discussed an intention to bring back the Communication to the Commission related to termites.

Chair Blattner suggested that since only three (3) members of the Board were at the original presentation regarding the termite issue, the backup materials should be sent to the Board for review prior to discussion of the communication. Upon discussion, consensus was to invite a speaker to return to provide an updated presentation.

Mr. Dutton noted he would like to see annual updates regarding the waterway quality.

Mr. Hadwen stated staff is working toward putting out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vulnerability assessment, and there will be updates available in the coming months. He outlined the assessment framework briefly. Continuing, Mr. Hadwen stated the Net Zero RFP was nearing completion, and there would also be presentations to the SAB associated with that effort.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Hadwen highlighted the Heal the Planet Day event will be held at Esplanade Park on April 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on May 22, 2023.