

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Fort Lauderdale Fire Station 2
Third Floor Conference Room
528 NW 2nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
June 26, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2023 through 12/2023					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Sofia Thordin, Vice Chair	M	P	6	0
2	Vacant	I	-	-	-
3	Robert Daoust (at 6:19 p.m.)	II	P	6	0
4	Kelly Charles	IV	A	5	1
5	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	6	0
6	Suzee Bailey	C	P	3	0
7	Whitney Dutton	IV	A	3	3
8	Cameron Steagall	III	A	1	1
9	Jason Kirchoff	II	P	6	0
10	Vacant	III	-	-	-
11	Jason Hignite	M	A	3	3

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
Stefan Perritano, Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison
Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Analyst
Jamie Opperee, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Laura Tellez, Solar United Neighbors

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. The roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A **motion** to approve the May 22, 2023, minutes as presented was made by Ms. Thordin and seconded by Mr. Daoust. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Vulnerability Assessment Update

Mr. Perritano stated a consultant had been selected to conduct the City's vulnerability assessment, and execution of the contract was moving forward.

Discussion ensued regarding the parameters of the assessment and the risks being reviewed. Mr. Hadwen explained the review focused on flooding and its impacts on critical assets, which was dictated by the definitions under the grant program through the State of Florida and State Statute.

Mr. Perritano noted there would be an outreach effort associated with the assessment, and data from the recent flooding event would be incorporated. Discussion continued.

LEED for Cities Recognition

Mr. Perritano shared that at the June 20 City Commission meeting, the US Green Building Council presented the City staff with its LEED for Cities Gold designation.

Mr. Kirchhoff asked to see the presentation and report card, as previous presentations were before he joined the Board. Ms. Bailey agreed. Mr. Perritano shared the one (1) minute video which was distributed on social media and stated he would send the Board the report card. Upon further discussion, consensus was to make a presentation once the case study was received.

Net Zero Plan

Mr. Perritano stated that a meeting was scheduled in early July for staff for a first review of proposals for the Net Zero Plan.

Ms. Bailey asked for additional details on the plan. Mr. Perritano shared that the City Commission had set a goal to reach Net Zero in carbon within City operations by 2040 and in the community by 2050.

SAB July Vacation

Mr. Perritano reminded the Board there would be no meeting in July.

Presentations

2023 Broward Solar Co-Op

Laura Tellez, Solar United Neighbors, made a presentation regarding the 2023 Broward Solar Co-Op. She provided a brief background on the organization, the Resolution of support from the City Commission, and impacts. Continuing, she discussed the cost of solar, the co-op process, and options available. She reviewed the benefits of participation in the co-op. She shared details of how to join the co-op and participate in its information sessions.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Ms. Tellez responded to questions regarding roof replacement, net metering, procurement, electric vehicles, homeowner's associations, and launching the next co-op.

Presentation is attached.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Termite Impact on Urban Forest

Discussion ensued regarding a proposed Communication to the City Commission related to termites.

Mr. Hadwen stated the Board had requested a speaker from the Transportation and Mobility Department regarding Complete Streets and Multi-Modal Transportation, but they were unavailable for this meeting. Mr. Perritano noted the presentation was rescheduled for August.

Proposed Communication

Mr. Perritano shared a draft Communication to the City Commission which Ms. Charles had written. The Board reviewed the language and made suggested edits. Mr. Perritano stated he would incorporate the edits and bring the Communication back for review at the August meeting.

Comments

Ms. Bailey stated that Residents for Resilience had a meeting with Dr. Schonna Manning, Assistant Professor and researcher at Florida International University, and learned about her research regarding water testing and chemicals in the waterways. She suggested Dr. Manning be invited to speak at a future meeting of the Board.

Mr. Perritano responded that staff could reach out to invite Dr. Manning to speak. He noted the City has a contract with Miami Waterkeepers for waterway quality testing. Ms. Bailey stated this was a different level of testing. Consensus was to move forward with the invitation.

Ms. Bailey stated she had recently heard a speaker regarding jobs created by the blue economy, and there had been a slide in the presentation regarding the red algae bloom on the west coast of Florida in 2018 which addressed impact on the economy, including lost property values. She suggested starting a project with oysters to help to prevent future algae blooms.

Mr. Perritano noted the red algae bloom occurs on the west coast and Fort Lauderdale experiences sargassum blooms, but there were options to explore. Discussion ensued regarding the data shared and potential responses. Ms. Bailey stated she would send it to Mr. Perritano to distribute to the Board.

Mr. Kirchhoff asked whether Fort Lauderdale has to get rid of its summer fertilizer ban in light of recent legislative changes. Mr. Perritano stated the legislation applied to new limitations, but the City's was already in place.

Mr. Hadwen stated there was additional legislation pending the Governor's signature which would allow businesses to sue municipalities regarding the impact of an ordinance. Mr. Perritano provided additional details on the potential preemption and stated staff was waiting to see what happens.

Mr. Daoust commented on trends in parking, as well as the City's parking requirements and impact on land use. He suggested a discussion on the topic. Discussion ensued and Mr. Perritano noted the Transportation and Mobility Department speaker scheduled for August would also know about this topic.

Items for Next Meeting

Mr. Perritano stated he could provide a short presentation in August regarding LEED for Cities and the City's scoring and would send the materials out ahead of time.

Mr. Hadwen reviewed the 2023 topic list briefly. Discussion ensued regarding updates to the list of topics and potential future presentations.

Mr. Perritano noted staff was applying for grant funding for living seawalls, but it was early in the process. The Board and staff discussed seawall progress.

Ms. Bailey commented on chemicals related to PVC and asked whether the City's drinking waters have PVC. Mr. Perritano stated the City has miles of piping which is being replaced due to corrosion and age. Discussion continued.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on August 28, 2023.