

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
Fort Lauderdale Fire Station 2  
Third Floor Conference Room  
528 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
September 18, 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 (at 6:06 p.m.)	M	P	8	0
<b>2</b>	Vacant	I	-	-	-
<b>3</b>	Robert Daoust	II	A	6	1
<b>4</b>	Kelly Charles (at 6:29 p.m.)	IV	P	7	1
<b>5</b>	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	7	1
<b>6</b>	Suzee Bailey	C	P	5	0
<b>7</b>	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	5	3
<b>8</b>	Cameron Steagall	III	P	3	1
<b>9</b>	Jason Kirchoff	II	P	8	0
<b>10</b>	Vacant	III	-	-	-
<b>11</b>	Vacant	M	-	-	-

**Staff Present**

Public Works Department

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

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A **motion** to approve the August 28, 2023, minutes as presented was made by Mr. Dutton and seconded by Mr. Kirchoff. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**Staff Liaison Report**

Vulnerability Assessment Update

Mr. Perritano stated that a meeting had been held the previous week with Arcadis, the contractor for the vulnerability assessment, to discuss modeling scenarios and selection of mapping areas. He stated the contractor is currently reviewing the Broward County GIS data and will request additional data as required to begin the modeling process. He noted preliminary information on the modeling process is expected in the next month or two (2).

Mr. Hadwen explained the consultant has 38 flooding scenarios it plans to model in the City, including sea level rise, storm surges, rainfall, and compound flooding events.

Ms. Bailey shared that she attended the Broward County Water Advisory Board the previous week. The Board discussed the County's groundwater map updates, and they stated that the City of Fort Lauderdale was hesitant to adopt the new guidelines. She stated there would be another meeting on November 3 and Board members might be interested in attending. She suggested inviting Jennifer Jurado, Broward County Chief Resiliency Officer, to speak to the Board.

*Ms. Thordin joined the dais at 6:06 p.m.*

Mr. Hadwen stated the City uses regional sea level rise projections created by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, which incorporates NOAA considerations.

Mr. Perritano reviewed the presentation briefly and clarified it was about floodplain management and the new groundwater modeling the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is coming out with. He explained floodplain management was under the City's Development Services Department (DSD), and noted they have concerns with the groundwater tables.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's tidal barrier standards and minimum heights. Mr. Hadwen noted that Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works, would be present at the October meeting of the SAB. She is much more fluent on seawall issues and could be asked to speak on the issue.

#### Net Zero Update

Mr. Hadwen stated the Commission was scheduled to award a contract to a consultant for planning the Net Zero initiative at their September 19 meeting, and work should begin in two (2) to four (4) weeks. He noted that presenting to the SAB would be part of the planning effort.

#### Urban Forestry Master Plan Update

Mr. Hadwen stated the Request for Proposals (RFP) was to be released on September 19, and the process of bidding and selecting a consultant would likely take about three (3) months.

Ms. Bailey asked about the requirements for new tree size and canopy size. Mr. Hadwen said he was not sure, but there was a minimum diameter of trunk and a minimum number of trees, not a canopy measurement. He stated he would ask Laura Tooley, Urban Forester, for numbers. He noted shade tree requirements remained in development.

#### Presentations

##### EV-Ready Presentation to the Commission

Mr. Perritano stated Benjamin Restrepo, Transportation/Traffic Engineer with the Development Services Department, was unavailable to give a presentation regarding parking requirements at today's meeting. Instead, he shared a video of the presentation he had made to the City Commission of the Board's Communication to the Commission regarding electric vehicles (EV).

*Ms. Charles joined the dais at 6:29 p.m.*

Mr. Perritano stated the feedback from Commission approved drafting an EV ready ordinance but expressed some concerns about the burden of the requirements. He stated the challenge was to find a

middle ground, and noted incentives may be a consideration. Discussion ensued regarding potential development incentives for including EV chargers and EV-ready parking spaces.

Ms. Bailey asked about concerns that had been shared with her regarding risk of combustion. Mr. Perritano cited a large study which showed it was more likely that a non-electric car would catch on fire. Mr. Kirchoff noted it was largely an education issue. Discussion continued regarding electric vehicles and electric fire engines.

Mr. Perritano discussed next steps and stated he was hoping to have a draft ordinance approved by legal early in 2024.

Mr. Kirchoff suggested leaning hard into EV-capable and EV-ready to increase the opportunity for approval of the ordinance. He stated he would support a target of 50 percent EV-capable. Discussion continued regarding costs and logistics.

***Presentation is attached.***

#### **New Business**

None.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Termite Impact on Urban Forest**

Mr. Perritano advised that the Board's Communication to the Commission regarding urban termites was about to be sent for scheduling, and noted he would pass on the details once a date was set.

Mr. Hadwen stated the City Commission conference meetings were held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month beginning at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Comments**

Mr. Perritano stated Dr. Gassman and Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Analyst, would be representing staff at the October meeting, as he and Mr. Hadwen would be at the Urban Sustainability Directors Meeting in New Orleans.

Ms. Bailey reiterated her previous suggestion to invite Jennifer Jurado, Broward County Chief Resiliency Officer, to speak to the Board. She asserted people should be talking about elevating homes. Discussion ensued, and consensus was to email the recording to the Board.

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

Ms. Bailey suggested a discussion regarding harmful algae bloom in the canals. She stated there is not a local dashboard to inform residents, and they don't know about it. Discussion ensued regarding bacteria and algae bloom in the water, testing, regulations, and the impact on aquatic activities.

Consensus was to postpone the discussion on parking regulations to after October and request that Dr. Gassman make a presentation in October regarding algae blooms.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on October 23, 2023.