

**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  
November 27, 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	9	1
<b>2</b>	Vacant	I	-	-	-
<b>3</b>	Robert Daoust	II	A	7	2
<b>4</b>	Kelly Charles	IV	A	8	2
<b>5</b>	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	9	1
<b>6</b>	Suzee Bailey	C	P	7	0
<b>7</b>	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	7	3
<b>8</b>	Cameron Steagall	III	A	3	3
<b>9</b>	Jason Kirchhoff	II	P	9	1
<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

Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director Public Works – Sustainability (via Zoom)

Jamie Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.

**Guests Present**

Jane Gilbert, Chief Heat Officer, Miami-Dade County (via Zoom)

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A **motion** to approve the October 23, 2023, minutes as presented was made by Ms. Thordin and seconded by Mr. Kirchhoff. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

*The Presentation was heard ahead of the Staff Liaison Report.*

**Staff Liaison Report**

Net Zero Update

Mr. Hadwen stated the contract for the Net Zero planning effort was awarded in September, and that contract has now been executed so they hope to start working in December. He noted there would be outreach events beginning in 2024.

#### Vulnerability Assessment Update

Mr. Perritano advised that he had recently completed the data request for Arcadis, the consultant hired to undertake the assessment, and they will now be beginning modeling efforts. He explained Arcadis will also start surveying of the 65 priority critical assets beginning next week.

Ms. Thordin asked for clarification on the 65 properties. Mr. Perritano stated the Request for Proposals (RFP) had included obtaining elevation certificates for 65 properties, all of which are City-owned critical infrastructure. He noted the list was a starting point and elevation certificates for additional facilities may be obtained in the future.

Mr. Kirchhoff asked if there had been flooding during the rain event two (2) weeks prior. Mr. Perritano noted that there had been.

#### Fortify Lauderdale

Dr. Gassman discussed the Fortify Lauderdale program which was recently presented to the City Commission. She shared that there had been multiple flooding events in the last year and discussed the types of flooding. She stated with a rain event, it is common for water to be held on the roadway for up to 72 hours. She noted staff had worked hard to alleviate flooding in several areas that were also impacted in April, and discussed areas addressed. She noted Coral Ridge and Lauderdale Isles received the most rain.

Discussion ensued as to how the April event and a normal large rain event would be incorporated into the vulnerability assessment modeling effort. Mr. Perritano pointed out the April event was useful in identifying neighborhoods. He explained 32 different scenarios would be modeled, including rainfall and tidal aspects, to give comprehensive coverage.

Dr. Gassman explained that hydraulic modeling was being conducted in 17 neighborhoods under another program which will directly inform stormwater improvement designs related to the flooding challenges in a typical rainstorm and help the City better understand the challenges, as well as the next steps for stormwater management.

Ms. Bailey asked about moving water to reduce flooding. Dr. Gassman stated the City has four (4) stormwater pump stations, including two (2) downtown and two (2) in Las Olas Isles. She reviewed the process briefly. Discussion continued.

Mr. Dutton shared that he lives in River Oaks and has seen improvement with the work which has been done since the April storm event.

#### Climate Leadership Summit

Mr. Hadwen stated several members of the team had attended the Climate Leadership Summit, including Dr. Gassman, Mr. Perritano, Ms. Ramirez, and himself, and Ms. Bailey had served on a panel. He noted there were approximately 900 attendees from a four (4) county area.

Ms. Bailey shared that she was impressed and had left wondering how to educate the public so everyone can start working together to mitigate the problems. She stated it is hard to care about what you do not know about.

#### Termite Outreach

Mr. Perritano advised that Urban Forester Laura Tooley was connecting with Dr. Thomas Chouvinc from the University of Florida regarding next steps.

Mr. Hadwen commented that there are two (2) prongs to the next steps on termite outreach. He stated Ms. Tooley would be reaching out to Dr. Chouvinc to discuss a program for education of City staff, and the Parks and Recreation Department would be requesting funding in the next budget cycle to launch more extensive programs to address termite protection.

#### **Presentations**

##### Miami-Dade County's Extreme Heat Initiatives

Jane Gilbert, Chief Heat Officer, Miami-Dade County, provided a presentation titled "Addressing the Health and Economic Impacts of Extreme Heat in Miami-Dade County." She discussed the rising impact of heat on the health and economics of the County, projections for the future, who is most at risk, and efforts being undertaken to address heat concerns. She advised heat is the number one (1) weather-related killer in South Florida and the world and noted most heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable. She highlighted the importance of preserving and growing tree canopies and expanding access to water and discussed partnerships briefly.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Discussion topics included an outdoor heat ordinance that was proposed and later withdrawn, advocacy, OSHA guidelines, and tree canopy concerns.

Mr. Kirchoff asked about other cities that could be looked to for leadership on the issue. Ms. Gilbert shared that in addition to Miami-Dade County, Boston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Athens are doing good work, but there are not many tropical areas to reference, as the developing world is dealing with different issues than South Florida.

Mr. Hadwen asked Ms. Gilbert to expand on discussion of an administrative order for City staff. Ms. Gilbert explained the order directs designated safety officers in each department to evaluate job classes for extreme heat risk within their department based on guidelines.

Dr. Gassman inquired as to the top three (3) objectives that Ms. Gilbert would pull from her list of 19 County-level objectives for City-level action. Ms. Gilbert discussed heat island mitigation and tree canopy enhancement, noting that people end up in the hospital from walking to or waiting at the bus. Discussion ensued briefly regarding increasing funding for housing retrofitting, reaching out to the unsheltered population, and bus shelters.

***Presentation is attached.***

#### **New Business**

Ms. Bailey distributed a report on bacteria in the isles near bridges. She stated she had received calls related to a child hospitalized after fishing and sought support in educating the public regarding the concerns. Discussion ensued regarding the report and readings, noting the spike following rain events.

Dr. Gassman shared that during a major rain event, the wastewater system becomes overwhelmed, and untreated sewage may flow into City waterways. She outlined the wastewater processing process and discussed messaging and source identification briefly.

Ms. Bailey acknowledged the difficulty of communicating and asserted the City could do better in getting the messaging out when the levels are elevated.

Dr. Gassman pointed out the bacteria data is available on the Swim Guide.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Hadwen pointed out the next meeting was scheduled for December 18, a change due to the holiday.

### **Comments**

None.

### **Items for Next Meeting**

Mr. Dutton highlighted waterway quality as a topic to be addressed on a future docket.

Mr. Kirchhoff asked about next steps in relation to the electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Mr. Perritano stated he finished writing the draft of the ordinance this week, and it will now be reviewed by the Development Services Department (DSD) Traffic Engineer and the Legal Department. He advised the review by legal could be weeks or months. Discussion continued regarding EV issues.

Mr. Hadwen stated historically, the Board spends some time at their last meeting to plan for the new year.

Mr. Perritano advised that DSD Traffic Engineer Ben Restrepo was scheduled to speak at the January or February meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on December 18, 2023.