

DRAFT

**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 24, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

| Cumulative Attendance | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1/2024 through 12/2024 | | | | | |
| | Members | Appt by | Attendance | Present | Absent |
| 1 | Sofia Thordin, Vice Chair | M | P | 5 | 1 |
| 2 | Vacant | I | - | - | - |
| 3 | Robert Daoust | II | P | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | Kelly Charles | IV | A | 4 | 2 |
| 5 | David Blattner, Chair | I | P | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | Suzee Bailey | C | P | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | Whitney Dutton | IV | P | 5 | 1 |
| 8 | Cameron Steagall | III | A | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | Jason Kirchhoff | II | P | 5 | 1 |
| 10 | Robert Landers | III | P | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Nicole Barnett | M | P | 4 | 0 |

Staff Present

Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison
Mallory Jones, Sustainability Administrator
Melissa Doyle, Solid Waste Recycling Program Manager
Todd Hiteshow, Environmental Compliance Manager
Dr. Nancy J. Gassman, Assistant Director Public Works – Sustainability
Jamie Opperlee, Prototype

Guests

Angie Xiong, WSP
Jonathan Dickinson, WSP
Tricia Halliday
Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair David Blattner. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

New Board member Robert Landers introduced himself briefly.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bailey offered an amendment to the May 20, 2024, minutes to include temporary water storage areas as a topic during the question-and-answer period under presentations and to clarify a question asked under Items for Next Meeting referred to salt water intrusion in drinking water, not soft water.

A **motion** to approve the May 20, 2024, minutes as amended was made by Mr. Daoust and seconded by Ms. Thordin. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Tree Preservation Ordinance Update

Ms. Ramirez stated the proposed ordinance related to tree preservation had been presented to the Planning and Zoning Board the previous week, and that Board had made recommendations for additional language to be included to address tree and palm critical zone protection, lowering the condition rating from 70 to 60 to include more trees, categorizing trees as large, medium, and small, enforcement of civil remedies, a new formula for market-based replacement, funding for the Tree Canopy Trust fund, and tree credits. She advised the Board had ultimately deferred the item to the August 21 agenda.

Video: FGBC Presentation

Ms. Ramirez shared a video of the presentation of the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) at the June 18, 2024, City Commission meeting. C.J. Davila, Executive Director, FGBC, reviewed highlights of the City's efforts and presented the gold certification.

Ms. Ramirez commented that Fort Lauderdale was the second city in the State to receive version five (5) certification.

SAB July Vacation

Ms. Ramirez reminded the Board there would not be a meeting in July.

Chair Blattner asked if there had been anything unusual or bad with the storms the previous week. Dr. Gassman stated there had been 12-14 inches of rain spread over four (4) days. She noted there had been road flooding in many areas, but lessons learned from the 2023 flooding were put into practice and the effected roads were substantially cleared in about 36 hours. Discussion continued regarding resident and business response, catch basins, the Alert FTL app, ongoing stormwater projects, education related to flood preparedness, and the number of cars stalled.

Ms. Bailey asked about a project at Huizenga Park downtown, and whether there had been mention of using it for temporary water storage during the reconstruction. Dr. Gassman advised this was a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) project, not a City project. She explained the park was designed in some degree to manage stormwater, but not to her knowledge with an intent to retain stormwater. She noted one (1) of the City's two (2) downtown storm stations was at the southern edge of the park, and the system had worked as designed.

Presentations

Net Zero Planning

Angie Xiong and Jonathan Dickinson, WSP, made a presentation via Zoom. Ms. Xiong explained WSP was the consulting firm assisting the City in developing a Net Zero Plan, and reviewed the scope of work for creation of the plan, strengths and opportunities in the community and the City government, potential strategies, emissions inventories, forecasting, outreach and engagement, and next steps.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Discussion topics included greenhouse gas emissions inventory report updates, comparisons to other cities and jurisdictions, consideration of other effects, approach to public engagement, equity, branding, and flood mitigation and storm resiliency.

Ensuring Protection of Potable Water Supply

Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Compliance Manager, made a presentation outlining the City's efforts to ensure a potable water supply. He discussed regulations covering Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), costs and implementation of compliance with regulations.

Mr. Kirchoff and Mr. Dutton asked about the impact of water and sewage treatment on PFAS levels. Mr. Hiteshew advised there was nothing in the treatment process that generates PFAS. Dr. Gassman provided additional details.

Ms. Bailey asked about the potential to pick up PFAS between the treatment plant and residents' homes due to antiquated pipes. Mr. Hiteshew stated he had not seen any research that indicated this was an issue of concern.

Mr. Hiteshew continued his presentation, discussing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations on deep well injection, salt water intrusion, lead and copper, and plans to create an inventory and ensure compliance with the assistance of a consultant.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Topics included chemistry related to salt water intrusion, areas of concern, treatment, as well as arsenic and other contaminants.

New Business

Ms. Ramirez shared that Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti was present to share her interest in creation of youth advisory position to the Board. She discussed her research and her interest in advocacy for sustainable concepts. She commented on the importance of using social media to draw a younger audience and added engagement, and noted this was an area she could help with. She shared details of her involvement in Project Green Challenge.

Discussion ensued as to how to get Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti involved.

Mr. Kirchoff asked if the Sustainability Department had a social media presence. Ms. Ramirez advised that the Strategic Communications Department manages all social media for the City.

Dr. Gassman stated staff could talk to Strategic Communications about the potential for more videos on sustainability topics, but part of the ask was involvement with the Board. Chair Blattner suggested the Board could have a high school intern.

Dr. Gassman explained that a permanent voting position would require a change in the ordinance.

A **motion** to add a high school student as an honorary intern to the Board was made by Mr. Dutton and seconded by Ms. Bailey. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Chair Blattner asked if the motion needed to go to the City Commission. Dr. Gassman stated that since the intern would be a non-voting member joining to provide perspective, she did not believe so, but she would bring the issue of appointment to the City Clerk.

Ms. Bailey asked if Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti could share ideas on social media. Dr. Gassman noted the Board was advisory of the Commission and does not take actions outside of that role. She stated Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti could not create a social media account as a representative of the Board. Discussion continued and consensus was that the position would follow the school year and Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti would attend meetings as her schedule allows.

Old Business

None.

Proposed Communications

None.

Comments

Ms. Thordin shared that she would be leaving the Board.

Items for Next Meeting

Ms. Ramirez stated Renewable Composting would be presenting at the August meeting.

Ms. Bailey highlighted an item before the City Commission regarding a waterway cleaning and algae control agreement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on August 26, 2024.