

DRAFT

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Tower 101, Suite 1100
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
August 26, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

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

Staff Present

Mallory Jones, Sustainability Administrator
Melissa Doyle, Solid Waste Recycling Program Manager
Dr. Nancy J. Gassman, Assistant Director Public Works – Sustainability
Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
Laura Tooley, Urban Forestry Supervisor

Guests

Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti
Xavier De Roos

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chair David Blattner. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

In a voice vote, the minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

ULI Roadway Elevation Report

Ms. Jones stated that the report was sent to the City last week and would be published by ULI soon. The next step would be going to the City Commission by October.

Net Zero Plan

Ms. Jones provided an update and stated that the public meetings are coming up. The first informational meetings would be via Zoom on August 28, 2024, and again on September 5, 2024. The first in-person public workshops would follow in September as well as October at the DSD.

Mr. Hadwen clarified that this plan will be specific to greenhouse gas emissions within the boundaries of the City of Fort Lauderdale; most larger cities in Broward would have separate plans and the County would also its own plan.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

Ms. Tooley reported that after 5 years, a smaller, scaled down version of the Ordinance will focus on tree preservation is scheduled to go before the Commission for first and second readings on October 1, 2024 and October 15, 2024, respectively. One of the most significant changes in the ordinance is an update of the methods to assign worth to trees that reflects market values.

Mr. Daoust arrived at 6:17 P.M.

The changes in the criteria for specimen trees were briefly discussed and it was stated that the condition rating will be decreased from 70% to 60% in the Ordinance.

Ms. Tooley clarified that Urban Forestry Master Plan is looking at initiatives to address areas where tree canopies are lowest in the City.

Mr. Daoust inquired about the policy on sidewalk installations; Ms. Tooley indicated she will find out and provide that information.

State Rule on Electric Vehicle Chargers

Mr. Hadwen reported that the State, through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), is charged with writing the new rule. He attended the public workshop held recently in South Florida at which time the State was seeking initial input, and subsequently worked with the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network to submit a letter to the State to communicate concerns and recommendations. The letter included a concern that the regulations would be so onerous as to inhibit cities or businesses from installing the charging equipment needed to keep up with the growing demand. One of the recommendations made was that the State differentiate between Level 2 chargers, which have a 240-volt output, and Level 3 or fast chargers because they could require more safety measures. The next step is for FDACS to draft the rules; the City would have another opportunity to provide comments before it becomes finalized.

Waterway Cleaning and Algal Controls

Ms. Doyle reported that three bidders responded to the recent request for pricing for waterway cleaning and algal controls. The incumbent was awarded a three-year contract which is primarily for trash removal; service to remove algal mats, herbicides and aquatic weeds will be provided as needed. The term includes two, one-year renewals and will double the number of boats used for cleaning. While most waterways will continue to be serviced monthly, those requiring higher frequency will be serviced every other week.

Ms. Bailey inquired about the value of the contract, stating that a large group of people were unhappy that close to \$7 million dollars was earmarked over three years, and it neither included natural remediation efforts nor involvement by this Board in the negotiation process.

Ms. Doyle stated that it is an operational contract specific to the physical removal of trash and includes the ability to pull triggers as needed for emergent situations such as a toxic algal bloom in the Las Olas Waterway in a prompt manner. It was further explained that those dollars are neither dedicated nor encumbered and represent the maximum potential spend for services contemplated in the contract. They do not represent what the contractor will be paid unless those services are needed. Ms. Doyle suggested that the Board contemplate a recommendation for natural remediation and water quality improvement with funds specifically earmarked and approved by the Commission.

Ms. Doyle clarified that residents could submit requests trash removal and report algal blooms through the FixIt FTL App or by calling 954-828-8000; an inspector also monitors multiple waterway locations for algal blooms on a weekly basis during the Summer. The process of responding to toxic blooms was briefly reviewed.

Tree Preservation Ordinance Update

None.

Presentations

Live Renüable (Xavier De Roos)

Mr. Roos made a presentation to introduce composting as a means of reducing solid waste in landfills and limit carbon footprint; to lower waste management costs; improve soil structure and porosity and reduce water runoff of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Renüable offers residential and commercial services as well as drop-off options for registered members at Flagler Village Station.

A question-and-answer segment ensued. Topics included the drop-off and pick-up processes for residents; partnership opportunities for high density areas such as apartment complexes; utilization of donated compost materials in local communities and pricing options. City partnership options to reach sustainability goals were also discussed, as was their process for handling commercial kitchens and other large-scale applications.

Ms. Bailey inquired about the recycling of glass into sand. Mr. De Roos indicated that the company investigated recycling glass bottles and decided it was not a good fit for them. Ms. Charles requested that the Board be provided a copy of the presentation that was given.

Chair Blattner recommended the Board continue with more detailed discussions on composting at the next meeting.

New Business

Vice Chair Election

In a voice vote, Mr. Robert Daoust was elected as Vice Chair. All members were in favor.

Old Business

None.

Proposed Communications

Creation of a Youth Chair Position

Chair Blattner requested that Vice Chair Daoust draft a communication to be reviewed by members to formally inform the City Commission that Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti is being added as a non-voting youth member.

Comments

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Chair Blattner stated the Board would further discuss composting.

Mr. Hadwen highlighted the Urban Forestry Master Plan, a Tree Preservation Ordinance Update, and the Vulnerability Assessment.

Ms. Charles added a discussion around the use of the weed killer Roundup.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be on September 23, 2024.