

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Tower 101, Suite 1100
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
September 23, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

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

Staff Present

Dr. Nancy J. Gassman, Assistant Director Public Works – Sustainability
 Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
 Melissa Doyle, Sustainability Division Manager
 Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison

Guests

Melissa Hew, Arcardis
 Erin Deady, Erin Deady Law
 Alex Zelenski, Clearview Geographic (via Zoom)
 Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti
 Tricia Halliday

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Chair David Blattner. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A **motion** to approve the August 26, 2024, minutes made by Mr. Daoust and seconded by Ms. Barnett. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

ULI Roadway Elevation Report

Mr. Hadwen advised that the report had been finalized and posted. The chair of the ULI panel is scheduled to present to the City Commission on November 19, 2024 at the Conference Meeting.

Net Zero Plan

Mr. Hadwen reported that the first public workshop had taken place on Thursday of the previous week and that the next workshop is scheduled for October 17, 2024. The Board will have the opportunity to review a draft of the plan and provide comments. Mr. Hadwen clarified that there is a website for the plan, and he would share the link.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

Mr. Hadwen advised that after many years of work, the Ordinance would go to the City Commission next month. The first reading will be on October 1, 2024; the second and possibly final, would be on October 15, 2024.

Presentations

Fort Lauderdale Vulnerability Assessment

Mr. Hadwen advised the Vulnerability Assessment is close to being finalized.

The consultants working on the City's vulnerability assessment, including Melissa Hew from Arcadis, Erin Deady from Erin Deady Law, and Alex Zelenski from Clearview Geographic, provided a presentation which included their methodology, funding opportunities, high level findings and a partial adaptation plan. Ms. Deady indicated that the assessment is focused on vulnerability planning, asset sensitivity and adaptation planning for flood events in the short- and long-term using the same risks and threats used by other counties and municipalities across the State. Evaluated assets include transportation; critical infrastructure; critical community and emergency facilities, as well as natural, cultural, historic, shoreline and wetland areas. Ms. Deady highlighted the fact that the evaluation is a GIS mapping model that looks at elevations of land and water from sea level rise, rainfall, storm surge and other combined flood risks; it is intended to help establish adaptation priorities.

Ms. Hew reviewed goals and principles of the plan. She also provided an overview of the partial adaptation plan. Ms. Hew indicated they are evaluating options for adaptation by asset and flood risk, and will identify a suite of options for action types by next Monday, by which time their deliverables would be due to the DEP.

Mr. Daoust inquired about rainfall and storm surge modeling; Mr. Zelenski indicated the study is based solely on the DEM. Mr. Daoust expressed a concern that the vulnerability assessment was not coordinated more closely with Broward County because their modeling is excellent, cutting edge and near completion. Mr. Daoust felt the plans presented by Arcadis were based on grainy and uncertain modeling output in areas that might be inundated; additionally, that it did not consider factors such as changes in sea walls. Ms. Deady advised that they had collaborated with the County.

Dr. Gasman pointed out that on the first slide, under the Florida Statute, the modeling had to be done in a specific way so that the State would have a patchwork of similar data across all areas. Dr. Gasman indicated that what is not shown in the assessment is being addressed by the storm water master planning board; control structures and the latest storm modeling would be reflected there. She explained that the more sophisticated master plan will show the information Mr. Daoust is looking for, noting that they are in phase two of storm water and sea wall master planning. Dr. Gasman stated that the work in the assessment complements the others and will provide the City with potential access to funding at the State level.

The prioritization of twelve hot spots or critical assets was reviewed in the context of timelines through 2040. Ms. Deady clarified that adaptation action areas and the hot spots correlate well and overlap in many areas.

Mr. Daoust observed that the adaptation actions presented looked similar to what was developed for New York City after Sandy and inquired if they would be customized for Fort Lauderdale as many were not applicable for this area. Ms. Hew noted that slide was intended to demonstrate the suite of available options and were not the ones specifically mentioned in the partial adaptation plan.

Ms. Bailey stated that the City does a lot of public outreach and asked that Arcadis include the names of areas on their maps when they are published for easier identification by the public.

It was clarified that when the study was started, 2017 NOAA intermediate low and intermediate high scenarios were used although higher scenarios could be used as needed.

There was discussion on the recent king tide and associated modeling; Dr. Gasman explained the factors that impacted the recent episodic tides and highlighted that this assessment was unique in that it overlays high tide with sea level rise; she noted that there was consistently a half-foot variance observed between predicted tide and observed tide last year. Ms. Bailey asked why the higher projection was not used and it was clarified that the overlays addressed that; the current regulatory framework for seawalls is based on intermediate highs and consistent across the 13 tidally influenced cities in Broward County.

Solid Waste/Broward County Authority Staff Update

Ms. Doyle provided a presentation on the newly created Solid Waste Authority of Broward County - an interlocal agreement between Broward County and 27 local municipalities to effectively manage solid waste, recycling, composting, and disposal throughout the County. By State Statute, municipalities may not own disposal facilities. She advised that the Authority is in the process of developing a Master Plan from a zero-waste perspective over time. Highlighted initiatives included recycling; electronics collections; recommendations for funding; long range 40-year facilities and resource

needs; and alternative disposal locations for municipal solid waste given that the local WIN Waste incinerator is at capacity.

Ms. Doyle indicated that the Authority would be hosting a series of workshops and is looking at larger scale composting which currently does not exist in South Florida.

Ms. Charles inquired if there was a way to introduce more circular economy. Ms. Doyle explained that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies need to begin at the State level, but those conversations had not gone far yet.

Mr. Daoust stated that he understood the Solid Waste Authority has been considering either an expansion of the waste to energy facility or a new one. Ms. Doyle explained the three-burner waste energy plant is at maximum capacity, discussed the pros and cons of incinerators and landfills, and advised that they are evaluating the addition of a fourth burner.

Ms. Doyle clarified that the City did not currently have an opinion on the unanimous vote by the Commission in the Town of Davie against adding an incinerator to their waste energy plant.

New Business

Code of Conduct Affirmation Statement

Ms. Ramirez stated that members should have received an email last week from Camille Minot regarding the Code of Conduct, along with an Ordinance and requested that Members sign and return their affirmation statements to the office of the City Clerk.

Kind Designs, 3D Printing Living Seawall Presentation Request

Ms. Ramirez advised that Kind Designs had been doing living seawall projects around the region and would like to make a presentation to the Board.

Dr. Gasman clarified that a design engineering firm was engaged to develop the designs for a sea wall on the New River and it would include living seawalls; the firm is responsible for reviewing available options in the market and selecting a vendor. She did not know whether Kind Designs was involved.

Ms. Charles wanted to see the living seawall presentation scheduled.

Next Year Planning Topics

Chair Blattner suggested the Board begin to focus efforts by identifying four or five top issues to be addressed in 2025 to better serve as advocates on those topics to the City Commission. The examples he provided included achieving Net Zero emissions, building the new City Hall, Urban Forestry Master Plan, Resiliency, and roadway elevations in the Master Plan. Chair Blattner asked the Board to come back with their ideas for discussion next month so that by December, they could vote on a plan. Members agreed with the concept; Ms. Bertanzetti stated that she really liked the idea.

Chair Blattner requested that future presentations be limited to 20 minutes to ensure there would be sufficient time to discuss the priority items.

Mr. Hadwen indicated that staff would provide a presentation on Sustainability Division projects for the next year.

Old Business

Glyphosate Concerns

Mr. Hadwen advised that glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup, and the issue was brought up at a previous Board meeting. Ms. Ramirez indicated a fact sheet and infographic had been shared with the Board; they included research from regulatory agencies which concluded that the herbicide did not pose a carcinogenic or public health concern. She added that the City of Miami had implemented a ban on it. Ms. Charles inquired whether there was evidence it was harmful to wildlife and other animals. Dr. Gasman pointed out that it is an herbicide, not a pesticide.

Ms. Bailey stated that she brought it up due to health concerns after learning that studies had linked very high rates of advanced stage breast cancer to that ingredient and thanked Staff for the information.

Proposed Communications

Establishment of SAB Youth Chair

The Board discussed two draft options presented by Mr. Daoust for the Communication regarding adding Ms. Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti as a non-voting Youth Member.

Text with No City Commission Approval

Last June, Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti, a high school junior attending the Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, expressed an interest in the City's Sustainability Advisory Board. Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti is highly interested in sustainable city planning and wanted an opportunity to learn about the City's sustainability and resiliency initiatives and represent the interests and perspectives of the City's younger residents. The Board welcomed Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti's participation and she has since attended our June, August, and September meetings. To recognize the great value Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti brings, the Board unanimously voted to have her formally join as a Youth Member, a non-voting position that will serve for a period of one year.

Alternative Text with City Commission Approval

Last June, Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti, a high school junior attending the Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, expressed an interest in the City's Sustainability Advisory Board. Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti is highly interested in sustainable city planning and wanted an opportunity to learn about the City's sustainability and resiliency initiatives and represent the interests and perspectives of the City's younger residents. The Board welcomed Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti's participation and she has since attended both our

June, August, and September meetings. To formally recognize the great value she brings to the Board and to the City, we are requesting City Commission to create a new non-voting position on the SAB, entitled Youth Chair, which shall be nominated by the Commission at large and serve for up to six 1-year terms. The Board also requests that the City Commission nominates and appoints Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti to be the first Youth Member on the Board.

A **motion** to approve the options presented was made by Mr. Daoust and seconded by Ms. Barnett. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Dr. Gassman recommended a discussion with the City Clerk in advance so that he could advise the City Commission on how best to move forward.

Comments

There was discussion on whether the City should consider a communication on composting and determined that bringing composting to the residents of Fort Lauderdale could be considered as one of the priority items addressed next year. Ms. Charles indicated that she would find out if the topic is included in the Net Zero workshop on October 17th and determine next steps.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on October 28, 2024.