

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Tower 101, Suite 1100
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
October 28, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

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

Staff Present

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager
 Melissa Doyle, Sustainability Division Manager (via Zoom)
 Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Coordinator,
 Valentina Padron-Rasines, Sustainability Analyst, Staff Liaison
 Laura Tooley, Urban Forester

Guests

Madisen Rieger, Assistant Project Manager, Kind Designs
 Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti
 Tricia Halliday

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair David Blattner. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A **motion** to approve the September 23, 2024, minutes made by Ms. Charles and seconded by Mr. Kirchhoff. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Liaison Report

New SAB Liaison

Ms. Valentina Padron-Rasines was introduced as the new liaison and would also take on outreach responsibilities, including PACE, Conservation Pays and solar co-op efforts. She shared her background with the city and expressed enthusiasm for her new role.

Mr. Dutton joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

SAB Communication - Youth Chair

Ms. Luz Ramirez played a video from the October 15 City Commission meeting which discussed the SAB Communication recommending establishing a non-voting Youth Chair position. The Commission expressed interest in meeting the recommended candidate and suggested keeping the age requirement flexible, allowing discretion based on qualifications.

Net Zero Plan

Ms. Ramirez provided a brief update on the Net Zero Plan, stating that the public workshops had concluded. The consultants were integrating comments into the draft report and were working on greenhouse gas quantification measures to be included in the plan. Ms. Bailey requested to see these suggestions before finalization.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

Ms. Laura Tooley, Urban Forester, announced the move to Phase 2 of the Urban Forestry Master Plan and described stakeholder engagement efforts, with one public meeting planned for each district and one at-large meeting. Mr. Daoust requested more information on the Urban Forestry Master Plan and emphasized the need for the board's input. Ms. Tooley noted a survey was being prepared for public input and it would be shared with the Board.

Presentations

Revolutionizing Coastal Infrastructure with Living Seawalls

Ms. Madisen Rieger from Kind Designs provided an overview of the company's 3D-printed, pH-neutral seawalls designed to enhance marine ecosystems while providing necessary coastal protection. The presentation emphasized how these seawalls mimic natural coastal features, promoting marine biodiversity. Ms. Rieger highlighted the environmental benefits, noting that the design supports the growth of marine organisms such as oysters and barnacles, which help filter water and improve water quality.

Mr. Kirchhoff asked about the durability and lifespan of the material, expressing concern over the impact of continuous exposure to saltwater. Ms. Rieger responded by detailing the testing process and confirming the material's proven resistance to harsh marine conditions, ensuring the structures remain effective over time.

The discussion also touched on the integration of mangrove planters into the seawall design. Ms. Rieger shared that this feature was under consideration for future iterations.

Ms. Charles raised a question about public visibility and whether the installations could serve an educational purpose for the community. Ms. Rieger agreed on the importance of community engagement and mentioned the potential for strategically placing these seawalls where the public could observe their positive impact on the environment.

2025 Sustainability Program Plans

Mr. Hadwen provided a presentation on the 2025 Sustainability Program Plans, emphasizing the City's commitment to advancing environmental goals through multiple strategic initiatives. He noted that the two tools available to the SAB to advise the Commission were written communications to the City Commission and requests for joint workshops with them.

The board discussed the roles of the floodplain management team within the Development Services Department. This team focuses heavily on permitting and flood management. There was mention of past collaboration with the floodplain team to improve the CRS score through specific initiatives.

Mr. Hadwen continued the presentation and summarized key priorities including the electrification of the City's fleet, aiming to transition municipal vehicles to electric models to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He also highlighted planned infrastructure improvements, such as the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the City and upgrades to support renewable energy projects.

Mr. Daoust raised a critical point about the importance of educating the City Commission before the adoption of the plan.

Ms. Barnett contributed by mentioning Broward County's electric charger strategy, which involves a coordinated effort to install EV chargers at strategic locations.

Mr. Hadwen shared an update on resiliency outreach, noting efforts to hire a resiliency outreach coordinator, with interviews being scheduled. He explained that once hired, this individual would act as a liaison to the private sector, focusing on enhancing resilience in the community.

The discussion ended with a short conversation on waterway management.

New Business

2025 Board meeting calendar

The board discussed the 2025 meeting calendar.

A **motion** to adopt the 2025 meeting calendar as discussed made by Mr. Daoust and seconded by Ms. Barnett. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Jason Kirchhoff resigning November

Mr. Kirchhoff announced his resignation, effective December, when his term ends.

Discussion returned to seawalls and potential communication to the City Commission.

Old Business

2025 SAB topics discussion

The discussion centered around priorities and effective communication strategies. Ms. Jacobson-Bertanzetti suggested leveraging community outreach and social media to amplify the impact of board presentations, emphasizing platforms like Instagram for younger demographics. Mr. Hadwen explained the City's social media policy, noting that communications must go through the Strategic Communications Team. Discussion ensued about exploring alternative outreach methods, such as linking specific meeting highlights for easier public access, dedicated social media platform, and equitable education outreach.

Mr. Landers joined the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Board members offered additional 2025 focus topics including waterway quality, Net Zero Plan, Urban Forestry Master Plan, and budgeting for waterways.

Concerns were raised about heat islands and environmental impacts. There was also discussion of concerns with artificial turf and whether it should be addressed in the Net Zero Plan.

The Board agreed to revisit the 2025 SAB planning at the next meeting, prioritizing key focus areas and deciding on a process for board recommendations.

Code of Conduct Affirmation Statement

Ms. Ramirez mentioned code of conduct affirmation statements were needed from Ms. Bailey, Mr. Dutton, and Mr. Kirchhoff.

Proposed Communications

There was none.

Comments

There was none.

Items for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a discussion of 2025 SAB topics.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on **November 18, 2024.**

Sustainability Advisory Board

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[Prepared by T. Baclawski, Prototype, Inc.]